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THE NEW REFORM BILL.

AFTER four failures during the last fifteen years, a fifth attempt is now being made to pass a reform bill through the House of Commons. A "bill to extend the right of voting," &c., is the title of the measure, which, in regard to its general principle, ought, one would think, to receive the support of the leading members on both sides of the House. The Conservatives wish to extend the suffrage as well as the Liberals; and, if they were to take office next week,

would, no doubt introduce a reform bill, as they did in 1859. Even Conservatives in the style of Mr. J. Hardy, who "hate statistics," and who factiously describe themselves as belonging to "that nearly extinct class of animals, members of Parliament who give no pledge to their constituents," would be obliged to support their chief if, returning to office, he were once more to bring forward the Reform Bill of 1859. Who, then, on either side of the House, is absolutely opposed to all extension of the franchise? "Mr.

Lowe and Mr. Horsman," it may be said. But both Mr. Lowe and Mr. Horsman have in their time supported reform bills of the Liberal pattern. In fact, nearly everyone in the House of Commons—at least, all the old members—have at some time or other during the last few years, directly or indirectly, declared themselves in favour of reform.

There is, of course, however, a notable difference between a reform bill devised by Liberals and a reform bill as Conservatives would have it. The Constitution may be amended



THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION AT GUILDFORD.

in a Whig or in a Tory sense; and a cynic might be excused for saying that the advocates of "lateral extension" wish to cast their nets in Conservative waters, while the chief thought of downward reformers is to catch Liberals. Mr. Gladstone has now baited his hook for fish of all kinds, and for that very reason it is quite possible that his angling may be attended with no success. He has borrowed the idea of a lodger franchise and of a fifty-pounds-in-the-savings-bank franchise from the Conservatives, but without conciliating one of the party; and in proposing to lower the householder franchise from £10 to £7 he has suggested to many of his own followers that he is too much bent on a compromise, and that if it would be as dangerous as Mr. Gladstone says to give votes to £6 householders, it cannot be quite safe to intrust seven-pounders with electoral privileges.

As we remarked a few weeks ago, the Government determined to bring in its Reform Bill first, and sought reasons for doing so, and studied what sort of a reform bill it should introduce, at its leisure. Mr. Gladstone has told the House, and through the House the whole country, that he and his colleagues began to consider the question of reform—that is to say, not whether they should introduce a reform bill, but what sort of a reform bill they should introduce—immediately after the death of Lord Palmerston; and that, until Friday last (March 9), he was without any data on which to base the meditated scheme. He must have drawn up a general plan beforehand, leaving himself nothing to do when the electoral statistics appeared but to fill in the figures. He had, apparently, intended to advocate a £6 franchise; but, to the astonishment and amusement of everyone, he ended his argument by proposing £7 as the minimum rent-paying qualification.

One of the great reasons given hitherto for passing a reform bill quickly, without too much discussion, has been that it would at least put the question at rest for some time to come. But it is evident from Mr. Gladstone's speech that this is too good a prospect to be hoped for. He has certainly given very tolerable reasons for dealing with the franchise part of the question at present. It is already too late to discuss the subject of Parliamentary reform in all its fulness. If a "comprehensive measure" were to be brought forward now, it would be impossible to dispose of it in time to send it up to the House of Lords, and it would be necessary to postpone it until next Session. That, we should have thought, would have been better than to give us a franchise bill this Session, a bill for the redistribution of seats next Session, and no one knows what the Session after that.

In the course of the debate on the Government scheme Mr. Laing said, truly enough, that the electoral returns proved much more in favour of a redistribution of seats than of a reduction of the franchise. In Lord Derby's reform bill it was proposed to demolish as many as fifteen nomination boroughs. Instead of destroying small boroughs, it would be a good plan, when the opportunity presents itself, to group several of them together. We believe there are no purer elections than those which take place in the Scotch burghs united in this manner. One landowner is not likely to influence four boroughs, and to carry on an organised system of bribery and corruption in four places at the same time would be impossible.

What many persons will consider a very bad sign in connection with the new Reform Bill is the favourable manner in which Mr. Bright receives it. Mr. Bright by no means regards it as a final measure, or as a portion of a final measure. He looks upon it only as a "step in the right direction." In fact, after giving the £7 householder a vote it will be difficult to show why the £6, the £5 householder, or, indeed, any householder at all, should be left outside the pale of the Constitution. We are quite of Mr. Bright's opinion, however, on one point. The fact that there is no agitation in the country on the subject of Reform is no valid reason for withholding a reform bill. If the suffrage is to be extended at all, the best time for legislating on the subject is during a period of calm.

THE CITY INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

The contributions to this exhibition, the opening of which was reported in our last Number, number 1035 articles, well classified under thirty-three heads, and comprise all manner of articles, from a metal shutter to a surgical stocking—from a bath brush to a side-saddle. Paintings, photographs, sculpture, drawings, designs and illuminations are plentiful enough; and there is no lack of beautiful specimens of fancy-work in leathers, feathers, hair, flowers, seaweed, silk, satin, and other materials "too numerous to particularise," but all suggestive of many patient hours and much delicate manipulation. There is something to please almost every taste, and, as usual, there are some great curiosities. There is one model of a steam-engine made entirely of coal and polished like jet. Another curiosity is a landscape design, moulded by the fingers only, out of papier-mâché and guita percha. This is the work of a tailor. A Fleet-street clerk sends a model of a velocipede; a shoemaker shows how to keep clear of railway accidents, and prevent wayward horses from being frightened at the engine-shriek; a stationer's assistant forwards an electric telegraph model, and another describes the best way to ventilate a chimney; a compositor's apprentice exhibits the model of an outrigger; and a gentleman who spends his midnight hours in superintending the machinery that prints a daily paper has three models of steam-boats. Among the models of rolling stock there are a railway post-office, a chaise-break, a patent landau, and a luggage-waggon.

Thirty persons have been selected as adjudicators of the several prizes to be awarded to the exhibitors at Guildhall. Amongst the adjudicators are Mr. Ellis, Royal Observatory, Greenwich, scientific instruments; Mr. MacClellan, fine arts; Captain Inglefield, naval architecture; M. Jules Benedict, musical instruments; Mr. P. Le Neve Foster and Miss F. Rudkin, ladies' work and millinery; Mr. Medwin, leather-work; Dr. Lobb, medical and surgical instruments; and Mr. Collingridge, books, &c. It is desired, on the part of the working men, that an intimation be forwarded to Mr. George Peabody of their wish that he should present the prizes, and that a requisition be sent to the Lord Mayor that he occupy the chair on the occasion.

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY WOMEN OF KANSAS have petitioned the American Congress for the suffrage.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The conference on the affairs of the Danubian Principalities met for the first time on Saturday last, at Paris. It is rumoured that the Emperor Napoleon is very desirous of widening its scope, so as to embrace many other of the vexed questions of European policy. Another report is that both France and Russia have agreed to put forward the Duke of Leuchtenberg as a candidate for Prince Couzé's vacant seat.

On Saturday the Corps Législatif concluded the debate on the paragraph in the address relating to agriculture. M. Thiers made a long speech censuring the policy of the Government, which, he said, had ruined the agricultural interest of the country. The amendment was lost by a large majority, and the original paragraph adopted.

It is denied that the French Government had consented to prolong the Extradition Treaty.

AUSTRIA.

The draught of the address of the Lower House of the Hungarian Diet, in reply to the Imperial rescript, was only read to the House on Wednesday, in consequence of a difference of opinion having arisen among the members of the committee. The address deplores not only the rejection of all requests of the House, but also the suspension of those laws which required no modification. It states that if his Majesty does not intend to govern absolutely, a Constitutional state of affairs must be practically re-established. All the various points of the Imperial rescript are controverted, and the re-establishment of Parliamentary and legal municipal government is again demanded. Hungary, it is stated, requires a real Constitutional rule, the establishment of which is not a political impossibility. The draught of the address was agreed to amid general applause. All the members of the House rose and loudly cheered Herr Deak.

At a conference held at Vienna, on the 8th inst., under the presidency of the Minister of Commerce, for fixing the Austrian tariff for cotton goods imported under the Anglo-Austrian treaty, the following was resolved:—"That the maximum duties on the importation of cotton goods in force between Austria and the Zollverein shall likewise apply to the same imports from England."

The Vienna *Morgenpost* of Wednesday says that Austria and Prussia intend to avert any conflict on account of Schleswig-Holstein by bringing the question before the Federal Diet.

CASSEL.

The Estates were prorogued on Wednesday evening, the Ministry stating as a reason for this step the illness of the Elector. The Estates had previously passed a vote of want of confidence in the Ministry, as well as a resolution impeaching Herr Pfeiffer, the former, and Herr Abel, the present, Minister of Justice.

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.

General von Manteuffel, Governor of Schleswig-Holstein, has published a decree of the King of Prussia, by which any attempt to establish by forcible means any other authority in the duchies than that of his Majesty and the Emperor of Austria is made punishable by imprisonment with hard labour for a period of from five to ten years. All acts that may be considered as directed to such an object, any endeavours to establish relations with foreign Powers for the purpose of causing their intervention, and any abuse of official authority committed in order to prepare a change of Government, and, finally, the enlistment or drilling of men, are punishable by imprisonment with hard labour for from two to five years. The decree further states that any instigation to rebellion by word or writing, or the designation of any other person than the King of Prussia or the Emperor of Austria as the rightful Sovereign of the country, will be punished by imprisonment for a period of from three months to five years.

ROUMANIA.

A report was current at Bucharest, on the 12th inst., that Prince Alexander of Hesse-Darmstadt will be nominated Hospodar of the Principalities. The Roumain deputies appointed to proceed to Paris in order to afford information to the conference on the question of the Principalities left for France on Monday.

It is denied that Russia has concentrated troops on the Pruth.

LEBANON.

The large force sent by the Turkish Government to suppress the rebellion in the Lebanon has been successful. The insurgents have all made their submission, and their leader is flying for his life to the seaboard.

THE UNITED STATES.

We have advices from New York to the 3rd inst.

Much excitement still existed on the subject of the difference between the President and the majority in Congress. Numerous delegations had visited President Johnson, to offer him their support. Mr. Johnson, in replying to them, reiterated his determination to continue his policy, regardless of opposition or taunts. He spoke hopefully of the future of the country, and believed that all would come right, despite Southern secession and the extremists of the Northern consolidation party, both of whom laboured equally to destroy the Government. By the early restoration of the South its products would be brought into commerce, thus extending the area of circulation for the currency, whereby financial disaster would be averted. It was reported that the President would shortly issue a proclamation declaring that peace has been firmly established in the South, and that the States will be left to govern themselves under the Constitution without military interference, except on the part of the Freedmen's Bureau, which will continue in force one year after the issue of the proclamation.

Lloyd Garrison had delivered a public discourse violently denouncing President Johnson, and charging him with intending, if he dared, to make a coup-d'état, either by forcing the rebels into Congress at the point of the bayonet or by driving the Congress out of the Capitol. The President, he said, ought to be tried by both Houses and dismissed from office. The Republican caucus had appointed a committee to inaugurate determined political measures against President Johnson's policy.

The Senate had adopted the resolution of the reconstruction committee, excluding the Southern representatives, until Congress declares the rebellious States to be entitled to representation, by 29 against 18 votes.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Deacon introduced a new bill to amend and continue in force the Freedmen's Bureau Bill. Mr. MacClurg offered a resolution instructing the reconstruction committee to inquire whether the Southern States are still in conspiracy; and, if so, to consider the expediency of levying contributions on the disloyal inhabitants in order to defray the extraordinary expenses of the Government. This resolution was referred, without instructions, to the reconstruction committee. A resolution had been introduced in the House, and referred to the committee on foreign affairs, declaring that the employment of French troops in the further conquest of Mexico would be a violation of the pledge made by Napoleon in his recent speech to the French Chambers. The House adopted the resolution asking the President for information regarding the extension of Juarez's term of office.

The suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act in Ireland had caused intense sensation in Fenian circles, and meetings had been called throughout the country to determine their course of action. Upon receipt of the intelligence, Mahony immediately issued a circular from the military department urging the people to be prepared for immediate action, and to look out for secret orders. The Roberts faction had also held a meeting. A despatch from Washington states that at a meeting of the Fenians in that city, on the 28th of February, a plan was produced for seizing on British Columbia and establishing a harbour for privateers against British commerce. Our representative at Washington had accordingly made a representation to the Federal Government, and when the mail left the subject was under the consideration of the Cabinet.

THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN THE UNITED STATES.

An American correspondent of the *Times*, writing from Philadelphia, on the 27th ult., gives the following description of the late crisis in the contest between the President and the Radical party in Congress:—

"The past week has been a most wonderful one in American politics, and has witnessed an excitement unequalled in intensity since Fort Sumter was bombarded in 1861. The President's veto of the Freedmen's Bureau Bill was the first cause, and by loosing the long pent-up feelings of the people it has shown one of the most remarkable traits of the American character. By one of those peaceful revolutions which can only occur in a country like this, the Radicals have in a very few days been completely discomfited, and there is scarcely a member of Congress who adhered to their policy who has not received intimations from his State or district that the people have decided against him, and at the next election will vote that he shall stay at home. Seward, with his usual keenness, sniffed the coming danger, and turned to the popular side in time; Stanton was not quick enough, and his resignation from the Cabinet now lies on the President's table, and on the 4th of March, it is said, will take effect; for on that day, or near it, the President intends clinching his advantage by reorganising the Cabinet, issuing a proclamation that peace and the Union are completely restored, and, equally important, declaring that according to law the Freedmen's Bureau must go out of existence within one year from that time.

"This great revolution in sentiment has only been accomplished by the great mass of the people neglecting their business for a week; thronging the streets of the cities; organising monster meetings; compelling by main force State Legislatures and city governments to endorse the President, firing cannon, mobbing newspapers that sympathise with the Radicals, and in a general way declaring that Radical fanaticism shall no longer imperil the peace of the country. The remedy is a severe one, but the only one that could have conquered the disease. For five years past it has been the custom to see sympathisers with the South mobbed and beaten. Now the tables are turned. To point out a man as a Radical, an Abolitionist, or a 'negro worshiper' will bring down the mob upon him and compel him to run for his life. The 'Copperheads' walk about cheerfully, holding up their heads as they have not done for many a long day; they gather enthusiastic meetings to sustain the President, and, strange transformation for them, have all suddenly become 'loyal' men and supporters of the Government.

"The veto was the prime cause of this wonderful exhibition of popular feeling, but before the feeling broke out the Radicals were sure they could break down the President and pass the Freedmen's Bill in spite of his veto. On the 20th of February the veto message came up for consideration in the Senate, and by a two-thirds vote the bill could still be made a law. When the session began the Radicals counted noses and found they controlled the requisite two thirds. This was quickly reported in the House, and Thaddeus Stevens at once moved a resolution that no Congressman from any Southern State should be admitted on any pretence, and demanded its instant passage. Then began a Parliamentary contest which at times threatened to end in bloodshed. The President's friends asked but an hour for debate, and strove to fight off the final vote. Stevens declared that 'earthquakes were around him and he dared not yield.' In the Senate in the mean time the presidential minority strove to prevent a vote on the Freedmen's Bill until Reverdy Johnson could arrive from Baltimore. This venerable senator had been telegraphed to, the message reaching him while arguing a case in a Baltimore court. He dropped his brief and rushed to the railroad-station; but no train for Washington would leave for some hours. Crowds of people were at the station, anxious to hear from Washington; and remedy for the dilemma was soon suggested. A locomotive was fired up. Reverdy Johnson mounted with the driver and stoker, and, amid the huzzas of the crowd, passed out of the station. The locomotive flew along the track, and in forty minutes had passed over the forty-one miles between Baltimore and Washington. A few moments afterwards Johnson walked into the Senate; the vote was taken; the Radicals, not having two thirds, were defeated; the veto was sustained; and Johnson, it is said, will be made Attorney-General for his alacrity. Of course the success of the President brought thunders of applause from the galleries, which were crowded with people; and of course they were turned out of doors for their sympathies.

"The news that the President had been sustained was brought quickly to the House, and that body, engaged in fighting Stevens's resolution, was in a babel of confusion. In the midst of the din could be heard shouts from the Democratic benches, 'The veto is sustained!' 'The veto is sustained!' This had the effect on Thaddeus Stevens to make him the more determined to carry his resolution. After a scene worthy of a bear-garden, the House at seven o'clock voted on and passed the resolution, and at once adjourned. On Feb. 21 the news of the rejection of the Freedmen's Bill was spread over the country, and the waves of popular feeling began to show themselves. Cannon were fired and bells were rung, and various deliberative bodies passed resolutions sustaining the veto. The country, however, did not seem to realize the full effect of the Conservative victory. In Congress efforts were made in the Senate to call up and pass the resolution of the House excluding the Southern members, but the Conservatives objected, and it was postponed. The Radicals, however, presented an amendment to the Constitution providing that no President can ever be re-elected. If Andrew Johnson had thwarted them, they were determined he should not have another term of the Presidency. In the House all was serenity, except at one stage of the proceedings. A call was made by the Conservatives for information about the distribution of printing to newspapers by the Departments in violation of law. Thaddeus Stevens at once suggested that the inquiry should extend to 'the expenses of printing Executive pardons.' After a hubbub this was withdrawn, and the resolution passed without it.

"It was not until Feb. 22, however, that the real state of public feeling became manifest. Being the anniversary of Washington's birthday, this was a general holiday. Business was suspended, and, the day being warm and the air balmy, the populace swarmed the streets. A more complete endorsement of any public measure was never witnessed than Washington's birthday produced. The vast arrangements that had been made in every town and village from Maine to Texas to properly celebrate the day were turned into a grand jubilee in support of the President. His name was on every tongue, and shouts rent the air in all directions. Processions of people, with bands of music, wandered about threatening destruction to all who would not shout for Andrew Johnson. The people gave full vent to their joy, and monster meetings, held at all hours, from ten a.m. to midnight, forgot the day they celebrated in their support of the President. Thousands of telegrams from all parts of the country, near and remote, flew along the wires to Washington, and assured him that the nation was right. Committees started from many cities to present him congratulatory addresses. In some State Legislatures attempts were made to pass condemnatory resolutions, though all failed but in California. Even in Massachusetts the current ran too strong for the Radicals; they refused in their State Legislature, by decided vote, to endorse the President, but they were afraid to pass resolutions opposing him. In Maine condemnatory resolutions were defeated. In Indiana the Republicans, in their bewilderment, voted an address supporting both the President and the Radicals; and in Missouri condemnatory resolutions were first passed, and then, owing to the shouts of a mob, reconsidered and turned into a salute of one hundred guns for the veto!

"The news of this universal demonstration in his favour, brought to the President from all quarters, almost turned his brain, and, feeling that his power was boundless, he determined to attack, instead of remaining on the defensive. During the evening of the 22nd he was wound to the highest pitch of enthusiasm, and ready for anything. It was a natural excitement, however, not a stimulated one, for it is said that since the scene in the Senate on the 4th of March, 1865, at the inauguration ceremonies, two men have taken a pledge of total abstinence—the President and the Secretary

of the Senate. While Johnson was thus exhilarated a vast crowd came marching to the White House, with music and banners. The great mass of the people of Washington, who had held a meeting indorsing him, came after it was over to testify personally their approval. At least 40,000 people filled up the grounds around the White House, cheering and calling for the President to appear and address them. The demonstration was tremendous, and Johnson, yielding to the impulse, came out to speak. His reception was enthusiastic, and the speech which followed was one of the most remarkable on record.

"It was midnight before the speech ended, and the crowd, that hung for hours on the President's words, dispersed. The speech had been reported by shorthand writers, and newspaper men rushed to the telegraph-office to spread it over the country. Stanton's censor of the telegraph stood in the way, however, and forbade its transmission. He saw that the President had thrown down the gauntlet, and the publication of that speech would disrupt the Republican party. For an hour he prevented its transmission, but the President was appealed to, and the censor was ordered to give way. At two o'clock on the morning of Feb. 23 its transmission began, and millions of newspaper sheets spread it before the public by breakfast time. Another day of excitement followed, for the populace roamed about the streets as on the day before, still shouting for Johnson, and defying all control. The speech wrought them to the highest frenzy, and cannons, bells, and public meetings still indorsed the President. In spite of an immense Congressional majority the Radicals were defeated, and it remained for them to acknowledge that the President had the victory.

"The 23rd passed without any public exhibition of spleen in Congress against the President, and in the evening a Republican-Radical caucus was held, but 'the starch was all out of them.' The outburst of public opinion from all parts of the country made the majority of the Radicals tremble for their seats in Congress, and they were in no mood for fight. Washburne, of Illinois, declared for open war against the President; and Schenck, of Ohio, moved resolutions defying him. Thaddeus Stevens remained silent. Senator Wilson hoped there would be no breach made between them and the President, and trusted that they would conciliate him by admitting the Tennessee members to Congress. General Banks indorsed Wilson, and the majority indorsed Banks; and, after three hours' talk, the caucus decided that Schenck should withdraw his resolutions, and that every effort should be made to patch up the breach with the President. The poor fellows who had strutted so high a few hours before drooped their tails to the ground. The Radicals had met a Waterloo defeat."

THE CHOLERA CONFERENCE.—The Cholera Conference at Constantinople appears likely to arrive at a practical conclusion, so far as suggesting the best means of preventing another irruption of the disease into Egypt from Arabia is concerned. The Conference has agreed, on the motion of the French representative, to stop communication between the two countries by sea during the prevalence of another epidemic. The Porte, however, terrified by the fear of an insurrection among the pilgrims, refuses its sanction to the proposed arrangement.

STATE OF EDUCATION IN THE ARMY.—Returns including 182,932 soldiers in the British Army in the financial year 1864-5 show 6·80 per cent with a superior education, and a further 63·67 per cent able to read and write. Of the remaining 29·52 per cent, 16·55 could read but not write, and 12·97 could neither read nor write. Comparing these numbers with those of the previous year, we find the uneducated fewer—29·52 per cent, as compared with 30·74. Among the educated men there was a marked increase in the number who had had a superior education—6·80 per cent, compared with 5·18—but a slight falling off in the main body, who, though without superior education, were able to read and write, their numbers constituting 63·67 per cent of the whole, as compared with 64·05 in the previous year. This is supposed to be owing to a considerable enlistment of new men in the year 1864-5, many who enlisted in 1864 having taken their discharge. In the Infantry or the Line the proportion of uneducated men—men not found able both to read and write—was 45·62 per cent in 1860, and only 35·71 in 1865.

BADGES OF MERIT FOR GOOD RIFLE PRACTICE.—An order has been issued from the War Office to the commanding officers of volunteer corps, making the following regulations with regard to class-firing :—"When the range extends to 300 yards only, the volunteer who obtains the greatest number of points over 30 in the third class may wear a rifle embroidered horizontally on the cuff of the left arm. When the range available extends to 600 yards, the volunteer who obtains the greatest number of points over 30 in the second class may wear a rifle embroidered horizontally above it. When the range extends to 800 yards, every volunteer who obtains 20 points and upwards in the first class may wear a rifle embroidered horizontally, with two stars immediately above it. When the range available extends to 800 yards, the volunteer who having obtained 20 points or upwards in the first class, scores the great number of points in the first and second classes, taken together, may wear a rifle embroidered horizontally, with three stars immediately above it."

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—The annual general meeting of the friends and supporters of this institution was held, on Tuesday last, at the London Tavern—the Right Hon. Earl Percy, P. C., in the chair. The meeting was indifferently and numerously attended. Amongst those present we observed the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot; Lord Alfred Paget, M.P.; Thomas Baring, Esq., M.P.; Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S.; Admiral Sir G. R. Mundy; Stephen Cave, Esq., M.P.; Sir William Mackenzie, Bart.; Colonel FitzRoy Clayton; B. Whitworth, Esq., M.P.; Lord Henry Cholmondeley; F. Leane, Esq.; Admiral Evans, J. G. Frith, Esq., and many other gentlemen. The chairman expressed his satisfaction in taking the chair at the annual meeting of so important and national an institution. It was, indeed, an institution worthy of our country, and it was very pleasing and satisfactory to observe its continued great progress. The clear and important facts which were detailed in its annual report could not fail to elicit the admiration of every one. After some further appropriate remarks, the chairman called on Richard Lewis, Esq., secretary of the institution, to read the annual report. It commenced by saying that, as in previous years, the most noticeable feature of the institution during the past twelve months was the large number of splendid gifts of the entire cost of new life-boats presented by individuals or by inland towns that had desired to show their sympathy with the castaway mariner on our shores, and to take some share in the work of affording him help in the hour of his need. The committee had likewise pleasure in noticing the circumstance of the formation of a society similar to our own on the shores of France—"La Société Centrale de Sauvetage des Naufragés," which body already possessed no less than eleven life-boats on the self-righting principle, all of which had been built under the direct superintendence of this institution. During the past year the large number of thirty-seven new life-boats had been built, and most of them already placed on the coasts of the United Kingdom by the institution. Boat-houses and transporting-carriages had been likewise provided for nearly the whole of these boats. The life-boats of the institution now numbered no less than 162. Through their direct instrumentality, *five hundred and thirty-two lives and twenty vessels* were saved during the past year, nearly all of them under circumstances when no other description of boat could with safety have been used. For these services, and for the saving of 182 lives by shore-boats and other means, and for exercising the life-boats quarterly, the institution had granted payments amounting to £4986. The committee expressed their thankfulness for this glorious harvest of 714 human lives which had been the reward of their exertions, and felt doubly grateful that it had been gathered without the loss of a single life to those brave men who had voluntarily risked their lives at the institution's call. It appeared that the number of shipwrecks on the coasts of the British Isles last year was 1738, attended with the loss, unhappily, of 472 persons. It was, however, an encouraging fact that the preservation of life from shipwreck continued steadily to make progress, and that the average loss, instead of being, as in former years, 1000 per annum, was now not more than 600. The total number of lives saved during the forty-two years since the establishment of the institution, either by its life-boats or by special exertions, for which it has granted rewards, was 14,980. Let anyone think of the large number of human beings thus rescued, in numerous instances, from the very jaws of death, and he will then have some conception of the gratitude which British and foreign sailors, who are constantly exposed to such calamities, express to the National Life-boat Institution and its supporters for the magnificent fleet of life-boats provided on our shores for their succour in the hour of their deep distress. The life-boats of the institution had during the past four years been manned on occasions of service and quarterly practice by 26,550 persons, and, out of that large number only six have lost their lives. The committee spoke highly of the continued valuable co-operation afforded to them by their local committees, the Board of Trade, the coastguard, and the railway and steam-packet companies. Since the formation of the society it had expended on life-boat establishments £136,881, and had voted 82 gold and 759 silver medals for saving life, beside pecuniary rewards to the amount of £2,140. The total amount of receipts during the year had been £28,932 3s. 3d., and its expenditure, including its liabilities, £16,725 17s. 4d. Many gratifying donations to the institution since the last report were received and gratefully acknowledged by the committee. Various legacies had also been recently bequeathed to the institution. The items of receipt and expenditure were detailed in the financial statement annexed to the report, and audited, as usual, by Mr. Begbie, the public accountant. For a long period the committee had had the satisfaction to report that, year by year, the sphere of the operations of the institution had continued to extend, and they were happy to be in a posi-

tion also to state that the public support had fully corresponded with the extension of those labours. The committee would, however, strongly urge on all who recognise the sacredness of human life, the duty and even the privilege to help forward the life-boat work—a work which has hitherto been manifestly blessed by Providence, and which has brought relief to many thousands of men who, instead of being on that very day valuable members of the community, would have been long ago engulfed in the raging waves of the tempest, leaving in many cases widows and orphans to suffer not only the misery of bereavement, but the pangs of destitution. The report having been moved and unanimously adopted, resolutions in furtherance of the objects of the institution were proposed and seconded, and the proceedings terminated.

THE ELECTORAL STATISTICS.

THE electoral returns for boroughs and counties, upon which the Government Reform Bill has doubtless been founded, were published on Saturday last, in the shape of a large bluebook. The statistics are copious and elaborate, and are interesting as an exposition of the present state of the franchise in England and Wales, and important with respect to prospective changes in the distribution of Parliamentary representation.

The returns having reference to boroughs are made under eight heads, and completely exhaust all information which can usefully be brought to bear upon the subject.

The first return shows, in respect of every borough, the increase or decrease in the population between the years 1831 and 1866, the increase or decrease in the number of electors for the same period, and the number of electors who voted at the last general election. These returns show that, while the population of the boroughs in England and Wales in 1831 was 5,207,520, the estimated amount at present is 9,326,709. The number of registered electors in 1832-3 was 282,393, which number has now swollen to 514,026. From these figures it will be seen that the proportion of electors to population has been evenly maintained; but there has been a diminution in the number of electors qualified as freemen to the extent of 21,840, and of scot-and-lot voters potwallopers, and others of 31,901. Indeed, the total extinction of such ancient qualifications as were reserved by the last Reform Act could not be very remote, as the entire number of such voters is now but 8837. The number of electors who voted at the last general election was 289,793. Such being the general result, the detailed returns show that in many cases the population of large towns has become much larger, while that of small towns has become much smaller. In some twenty electoral boroughs, with the city of London at their head, there has been since 1832 an aggregate diminution of population to the extent of 32,877. The great majority of these declining constituencies are situated in the south and west of England. Although, as we have said, the proportion of electors to population has been on the aggregate fairly maintained, there are many cases in which, while population has increased, the number of registered electors has diminished—a notable instance of which is Preston, which, with 56,781 more inhabitants, has now fewer electors by 3703 than it possessed in 1832. The explanation, of course, is that the possessors of an ancient right peculiar to that borough, almost tantamount to household suffrage, are rapidly dying out. But, again, in many of the cases where population has diminished there has been an actual increase of electors, a fact which may be taken to prove an advance in the social condition of the people.

Return B is a most important one, "showing the number of electors on the Parliamentary Register for each city and borough in England and Wales for 1865 6, classed according to the several qualifications in respect of which they are entitled to vote, and the number of such electors who come within the description of mechanics, artisans, and other persons supporting themselves by daily manual labour." In the instructions given for the collection of these Returns it was explained that the term "working classes" should include, not only journeymen, but also men who worked daily at their own handicraft trade without a master, and even sometimes employing a journeyman or an apprentice, provided they derived their chief support from their own hand labour, and not from the labour of others, or the profits arising from the employment of capital, or the supply of materials. The result shows that out of the 488,920 borough electors on the register, deducting double entries, of whom 463,518 are qualified as £10 occupiers, no less than 128,603 fall within the category of "mechanics, artisans, and others supporting themselves by daily manual labour," thus establishing the unexpected fact that more than one fourth of the present borough constituencies consist of the very class which is described by some politicians as at present wholly excluded from the representation. Thus, in Southwark, out of a total of 11,631 registered electors, no less than 5515 are returned as of the working class. Southampton has 2084 out of 4189; Portsmouth, 1266 out of 4671; Manchester, 5882 out of 22,792; Lambeth, 9501 out of 27,754; and the Tower Hamlets, 8107 out of 34,115. In Birmingham, Bolton, Newcastle, Wigan, Wolverhampton, and Sheffield, the proportion of working class electors exceeds twenty per cent. In Salford and Leicester the proportion is nearly forty per cent, and in Lancaster it actually reaches forty-six per cent; while Greenwich, with its 9805 electors, has 5169, or considerably more than fifty per cent belonging to the working classes.

Return C compares the register of Parliamentary electors with the burgess lists of the various boroughs, and the result is that, while the number of Parliamentary electors is 514,026, the burgess lists only show 425,007 names, 206,160 being common to both lists, and double entries being included in each. There are 143,935 persons whose rates being paid or compounded for by their landlords are ineligible to the franchise under the existing law.

Return D gives certain details showing the operations of various general and local rating Acts. Thus, the Small Tenements Act, which allows the occupier whose rates are paid by his landlord the municipal franchise, is in operation in part or in whole of 156 boroughs, and in those instances the total number on the burgess lists is 254,118; while the total number of registered Parliamentary electors is only 152,140, of whom 40,430 are not upon the burgess lists.

The next return (E) is an important one, showing the number of male occupiers in boroughs who are assessed upon a gross estimated rental and rateable value at various fixed amounts, commencing at £4 and extending upwards, the number of inhabited houses and residents in each borough or within seven miles, and the number of electors on the registers now in force as £10 occupiers. The numbers of male occupiers upon gross estimated rental in the metropolitan boroughs, which have now 146,459 registered electors as £10 voters, are as follow:—At £10 and upwards, 237,950; at £9 and under £10, 6273; at £8 and under £9, 8067; at £7 and under £8, 5676; at £6 and under £7, 4199; at £5 and under £6, 2294; at £4 and under £5, 1190. In the other boroughs of England figures are much more marked, there being 384,850 male occupiers at a gross estimated rental of £10 and upwards, 35,737 at £9 and under £10, 59,918 at £8 and under £9, 85,620 at £7 and under £8, 119,884 at £6 and under £7, 123,014 at £5 and under £6, and 99,545 at £4 and under £5. The occupiers upon rateable value are in the metropolitan boroughs, at £10 and upwards 203,888; at £9 and under £10, 6747; at £8 and under £9, 10,840; at £7 and under £8, 8852; at £6 and under £7, 4115; at £6, 7957; at £5 and under £6, 9657; and at £4 and under £5, 9917. In the other boroughs the numbers were—£10 and upwards, 312,621; £9 and under £10, 35,811; £8 and under £9, 52,593; £7 and under £8, 50,202; £6 and under £7, 43,920; at £6, 46,376; £5 and under £6, 120,825; £4 and under £5, 160,322.

The general result is as follows:—

NUMBER OF MALE OCCUPIERS.

Description.	Estimated Rental.	Rateable Value.
£1 and under £5	108,405	177,530
£5 and under £6	131,762	135,634
£6 and under £7	130,293	at £6, 55,666 under £7, 49,939
£7 and under £8	94,014	60,617
£8 and under £9	69,147	65,268
£9 and under £10	43,209	43,612
At £10 and over	639,043	330,555

The number of inhabited houses in England and Wales in 1861 is 1,449,444; the actual number of electors on the register as £10 occupiers is 451,699, or about one third of the whole number of occupied houses. The details of the return present some remarkable facts, which afford a tolerably clear view of the results which would follow upon a given reduction of the franchise, as the undermentioned examples will show:—

Name of City or Borough.	£1 to £5	£5 to £6	£6 to £7	£7 to £8	£8 to £9	£9 to £10	Over £10.
Birmingham ..	2909	8817	10,369	7210	6367	1382	19,062
Bradford ..	1779	3920	4,835	1302	1447	334	6170
Brighton ..	213	246	497	379	612	572	8627
Bristol ..	875	1563	1,364	1477	1420	1214	13,962
Exeter ..	604	593	363	336	296	240	2766
Finsbury ..	121	103	336	170	696	299	39,668
Gateshead ..	1293	188	875	495	399	182	1466
Greenwich ..	591	850	854	842	899	1213	12,216
Halifax ..	1018	918	641	291	250	254	1,988
Huddersfield ..	837	1072	709	352	234	124	2,102
Ipswich ..	772	1073	1,669	530	135	124	2,260
Hull ..	1981	2601	2,494	1740	1734	998	7,119
Lambeth ..	86	181	825	736	1144	1199	38,543
Leeds ..	9549	6645	4,171	2326	1072	664	9,337
Leicester ..	1199	1599	2,958	1696	752	494	4,369
Liverpool ..	231	1047	3,152	5245	5935	4737	40,073
London, city of ..	4	36	47	15	21	10	12,652
Manchester ..	3988	7216	6,922	6599	5875	2656	27,906
Marylebone ..	1	38	40	116	121	234	35,185
Newcastle (Tyneside) ..	2934	2037	1,952	1242	1486	1211	6,827
Nottingham ..	1740	1945	1,825	2214	1123	681	4,919
Oldham ..	2070	1611	3,073	2849	979	255	3,342
Oxford ..	47	239	358	370	254	347	2,799
Preston ..	1222	3032	2,130	1562	781	269	2,537
Reading ..	459	149	296	463	44	61	2,687
Rochdale ..	1112	1867	935	700	176	71	1,858
Salford ..	2143	2867	2,061	2760	1127	1088	5,061
Sheffield ..	3297	6564	9,335	3224	2055	1572	10,180
Southwark ..	105	478	706	930	1189	1220	17,649
Stockport ..	1351	1402	1,630	585	279	158	1,695
Tower Hamlets ..	821	1297	2,076	3269	4682	3171	75,137
Warrington ..	1041	1122	619	258	111	1,073	
Westminster ..	49	181	169	440	214	138	19,116
Wolverhampton ..</td							

the scene may be imagined when it is known that almost all the favoured visitors wore the national costume—the “kolpacs” and the “kueemas,” the round turban and the loose Hungarian jacket—and that velvets, silks, and furs were relieved by jewelled ornaments.

Seldom has Buda seen such a spectacle, and yet it has been the scene of some strange sights in its time, for Buda is as old as, and perhaps even older than, the Rakosfeld—that great plain on the other side of the river where the great Magyar national assembly was once held in the open air, where armed and mounted magnates, robed and jewelled ecclesiastics, and troops of vassals, made a great crowd of 100,000 men, who lived in tents while the deliberations lasted; and where, at the first of these very assemblies, in 1458, Matthias Hunyaden was elected King. Affairs have progressed in Buda since that time, however; and the old bridge of boats across the Danube, here some 1100 ft. wide, was superseded, in 1849, by one of the finest suspension bridges in Europe, placed at the point where, in former times (the bridge of boats being removed for the winter), there was no crossing except upon the ice or in ferry-boats, which plied between the frozen masses that swept down the current of the stream.

The fortress of Buda, situated proudly on the summit of a rock, together with what was formerly the palace of the Palatine and the remains of a Gothic church, once used by the conquering Turks as a mosque, all give the place, as seen from the river, a very picturesque appearance, and a fanciful resemblance has been traced between the Hungarian capital and Edinburgh, the new town being represented by Peath, the Castle-hill by the fortress of Ofen, or Buda, and Arthur's Seat by the dark Blocksberg; but, to complete the comparison, it is necessary to imagine a wide river running through the gully called North Loch, at Edinburgh, and separating the old town from the new. Buda, the hills around which are covered with vineyards, was once the jealous stronghold of Hungarian nationality, and the removal of the crown jewels from its palace to Vienna by Joseph II. did, perhaps, more to alienate the people from Austrian dominion than any legislative interference. Buda is supposed to be named from a brother of Attila, who set up his iron throne in the place, and it was once a Roman station; while O Buda, or Alt Ofen, a little higher up the river, is one of still older date. The more modern history of Buda is one of vicissitudes; for, in 1541, the Turks, under Sultan the Magnificent, introduced a garrison of 12,000 Janissaries into it, and reduced the whole district to a Turkish province, ruled by a pacha, till 1686, when it was retaken by the Austrians, under the Duke of Lorraine and the Margrave of Baden. One of its last difficulties was, singularly enough, the means of testing the stability of the new bridge before it was open to the public in 1849—for



THE RIGHT HON. CHICHESTER FORTESCUE, CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND.
(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY J. AND C. WATKINS.)

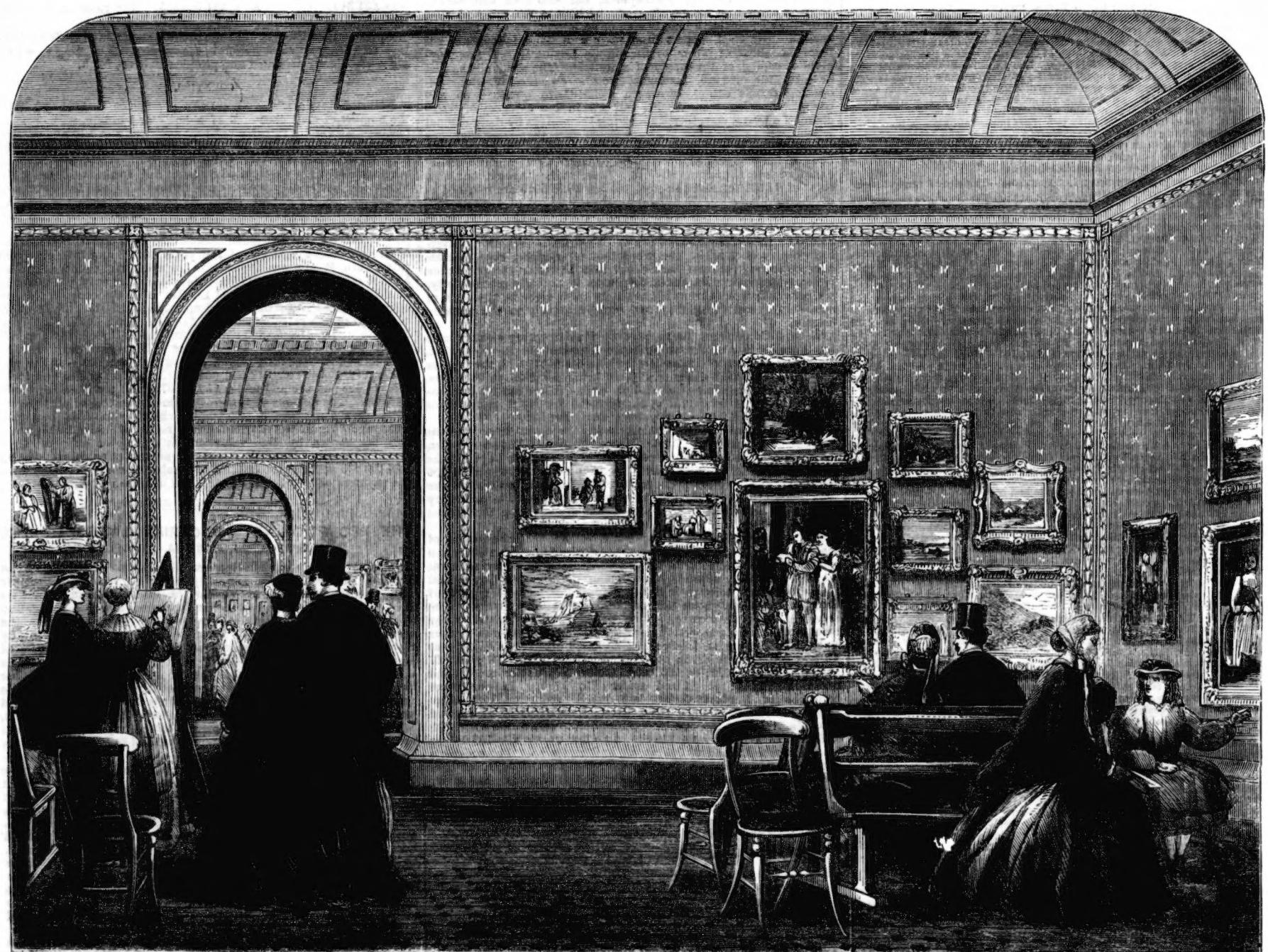
the whole force of the Hungarians and the Imperialists passed over it, the former hotly pursued by the latter; and for nearly two days the entire platform of the bridge was one dense mass of moving soldiers.

MR. CHICHESTER FORTESCUE.

THE Right Hon. Chichester Samuel Parkinson Fortescue, younger brother and heir-presumptive to Lord Clermont, was born in 1828, and was educated at Eton, and at Christ Church Oxford, where he graduated B.A., in 1844, taking first-class honours in classics, and obtained the Chancellor's prize for the English essay in 1848. In the following year he was elected member of Parliament in the Liberal interest for the county of Louth, which he has represented ever since. He was an Irish Lord of the Treasury from 1854 to 1855, was appointed Under-Secretary for the Colonies, under Lord Palmerston's Government, in 1857, which post he exchanged, on the accession last year of Earl Russell to the premiership, for that of Chief Secretary for Ireland in room of Sir Robert Peel. Mr. Fortescue was sworn a Privy Councillor in 1864. His acceptance of the post of Chief Secretary rendering a new election necessary, and a petition having been presented against the validity of the late election, Mr. Fortescue has hitherto been virtually out of Parliament since it met, as he can neither take his seat nor can a new election take place till the merits of the petition against his return have been decided. The petition has now, however, been withdrawn. A new writ may therefore be issued, and the right hon. gentlemen will, no doubt, be in a position to take his seat in a short time. Some years ago, Mr. Fortescue married Lady Waldegrave, widow of Earl Waldegrave, and daughter of the late Mr. Braham, the eminent vocalist.

THE NEW SHEEPSHANKS AND VERNON GALLERIES AT SOUTH KENSINGTON.

WHATEVER may have been the disappointment with which a large proportion of the public witnessed the removal of the two finest collections of modern pictures to the hideous building in the remote regions of South Kensington, we may well feel some satisfaction in knowing that they have at length been placed in a gallery specially designed for them, and devoted to the convenience of the visitors who desire to renew their acquaintance with the glorious works of art which first appealed to them at Marlborough House. The new galleries for the Sheepshanks and the Vernon collections of paintings may go far towards reconciling the dwellers in the far north-east to the privileges accorded to the more favoured inhabitants of the south-western district.



THE NEW VERNON GALLERY, SOUTH KENSINGTON.



PRESENTATION OF LADIES OF OPEN (BUDA) TO THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 273.

ASSAULT UPON THE EXCHEQUER.

Prince Henry. I am good friends with my father, and may do anything.
Falstaff. Rob me the exchequer the first thing thou doest, and do it with unwashed hands too.

Bardolph. Do, my Lord.

We have given this extract from Shakespeare's "Henry IV.", Part I., because it is apropos to a scene in the House of Commons on Friday night week, when the House was in Supply and the dockyard vote was under discussion. There were present about sixty members, and notably most of the representatives of the dockyard towns—to wit, Messrs. Busfield Ferrand and John Fleming, members for Devonport; Messrs. Wykeham Martin and Serjeant Kinglake, for Rochester; Mr. Otway, for Chatham; Sir Charles Bright, for Greenwich; and Mr. Serjeant Gaselee, for Portsmouth. Mr. Stone, member for the same place, however, was judiciously silent. Mr. Alderman Salomons was, happily for himself, compelled by ill-health to be at home. And why were these dockyard gentlemen assembled? Well, it was to make an attack upon the exchequer, and, as soon as opportunity offered, they one and all lifted anchor, left their moorings, and sailed away upon this buccaneering expedition. Singular this, when we come to think of it; for constitutionally, as Mr. Ayrton sarcastically and pithily reminded them, they were sent here to defend the exchequer. This, however, they evidently forgot, or, perhaps we ought to say, did not choose to remember it; there were prior claims upon them, as they thought. "Rob us the exchequer the first thing thou doest," was the instruction given them by their dockyard voters; or, in other words, "Compel the Government to pay us wages higher than the market price," and they were here to obey the imperious command. Mr. Fleming led the attack. Cautiously and slowly he went to work. He is a new member, and had to feel his way. Then Mr. Wykeham Martin followed. Very active and energetic is Mr. Martin, and he fired away in smart and noisy style; but there was evidently more sound than substance. After him came Mr. Martin's colleague—Mr. Serjeant Kinglake. We do not remember that we ever saw Mr. Kinglake in a scrimmage before. Very lively was Mr. Kinglake; but he, too, fired abroad, and without effect, as was evidenced by the countenance of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who turned round, and, looking his antagonist full in the face, laughed at his noisy ineffectual fire. Then the redoubtable Ferrand, who had long taken up his position on the front Opposition bench—the only man there, by-the-way, sole representative of the leaders of her Majesty's Opposition. Very loud were the discharges of Mr. Ferrand; but when the noise ceased the exchequer was still intact, and the guardian of it unscathed and smiling. The next who hove in sight was Sir Charles Bright, the great telegraph man, and he, as it seemed to us, went to work but perfusorily, as if he did not at all like his companions on his task; and we can well imagine that this must be so, for it is hardly possible to conceive that so eminent and scientific a man can be so ignorant of the economics of labour as really to sanction the proposition which he was called upon to defend. Omitting Captain Vivian, who darted out from the other side, we come to Mr. Childers, formerly a Lord of the Admiralty and now Secretary to the Treasury. He, of course, had to oppose the buccaneers, and he did it with admirable skill and force. There was but little noise, and pothe, and show. Mr. Childers is not a showy fighter, but every gun told; and he was seconded, with great spirit and effect, by Mr. Samuda. Mr. Samuda is a new member. He represents Tavistock, and has no dockyard constituents to please. Moreover, he is an eminent shipbuilder, employing a large staff of workmen, and speaks, therefore, on subjects like this as a leading authority. Very damaging to the buccaneers, indeed, was the attack of Mr. Samuda; and, if they had been wise, they would at once have sheered off and given up the assault as a failure. But this they could not well do, as Mr. Serjeant Gaselee had long been waiting to rush into the fray, with every gun shotted, and must, for his reputation's sake down at Portmouth, discharge his broadside—albeit he must have seen then that the battle was lost. The learned Serjeant is also a new member. Four times, for four different places, did he attempt to get into Parliament before he could succeed. At last Portmouth was wood and won. Was he, then, to neglect the interests of those who had helped him to climb to the topmost height of his ambition? That he could not do. In a few months he must, in all probability, go to Portmouth again, and how could he face his kind dockyard friends if he were now to remain silent? No; the case was desperate; he must rush into the fight; and this he did, and for time blazed away like a box of crackers exploding; but, alas for him, with no effect! On the contrary, Gladstone all the while laughed merrily at the storm, and once actually chaffed his noisy antagonist; for, when he expressed his opinion that the Ministers of the Crown were paid well and worked little, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, amidst roars of laughter, called out, "Why don't you turn us out, then?" Come if you dare, as the old song says.

The learned Serjeant was the last of the assailants; and when he passed on, having spent his ineffectual fire, Gladstone himself, still in the merriest mood, rushing impetuously into the fray, delivered such crushing broadsides right and left that the whole buccaneering squadron had to sheer off in confusion. Sir Morton Peto pitched a heavy shot into it as it was retreating, and Mr. Ayrton another, with the taunting advice that the new members should learn their business better. Mr. Otway made an ineffectual attempt to rally the besiegers; but Gladstone settled the business; and when the noise had ceased, and the smoke, so to speak, had cleared away, the exchequer stood intact. And now we pass on to a grander and more important fight.

THE GREAT REFORM DEBATE.

At six o'clock on Monday morning the great doors of Westminster Palace, opposite Poets' Corner, were opened, and in rushed, incontinently, about 150 men to take their places in St. Stephen's Gallery, there to wait nine hours and more, till those whom they represented should come with their orders for the Strangers' Gallery. For know that these men, who sat so many hours, were not the possessors of orders, but their representatives, paid to keep the places of those who could not afford the time or did not choose to sit there all day. When the time for opening the gallery approached, the crowd became very large; but, by a new and judicious arrangement, carried out by an extra force of police, the great bulk of the people was kept in the central hall, and not allowed to press forward into the lobby. Thus, this vestibule of the House was by no means so crowded as it has been on similar exciting occasions. At three o'clock, though the House does not open till a quarter to four, there were at least a hundred members present. When the mace arrived, every seat was taken, and the members' galleries were rapidly filling; and long before Mr. Gladstone rose every square foot of sitting and standing room was occupied. We have often told our readers that the House will not conveniently hold above three fourths of the members. Yes, this is even so. The nation has spent at least two millions of money upon Westminster Palace, and the chamber where the Commons of England assemble—the nucleus of the whole, and to which all the other chambers, and lobbies, and corridors are but subsidiaries—is so small that on grand occasions members who can get seats are jammed together like closely-packed third-class passengers in an excursion-train, whilst scores have to stand at the bar, or behind the Speaker's chair, or squat down in the gangways, or stand upon chairs in the doorways leading into the side galleries. A strange fact this; but, having other matters to attend to, we must not dwell upon it now.

THE PEERS.

The peers, leaving the Duke of Somerset and others to talk about turrets-ships and the wrongs of Captain Coles to empty benches, came down in such numbers that they overflowed the space assigned to them, and had, many of them, to be accommodated, by special license, in the members' galleries, driving out or jamming up closer the members who sat, or stood, or squatted there. His Grace the Duke of Cambridge was in his usual place, below the bar, as active, ruddy,

and handsome as ever. Earl Russell, too, was present, and would that we could say that he, too, looked strong and well; but it cannot be, for too evidently he is getting old and infirm. However, we were glad to see him, for Rumour had announced that he was unwell that at his last two State dinners he could not be present.

GLADSTONE'S OPENING SPEECH.

Mr. Gladstone came early, and the private and other preliminary business having been disposed of amidst a buzz of chatter and much restlessness amongst the uneasy members, at length, just as the hand of the clock pointed to 4.15, the Chancellor of the Exchequer rose, the Deputy Speaker called out "Order, order!" the restlessness suddenly ceased, and a dead silence fell upon the House. Of course we can say very little about the speech which the leader of the House proceeded to deliver. This much, however, we may say: the Chancellor of the Exchequer was as eloquent as ever. As a clear, intelligible exposé of a great measure, the speech was everything that could be desired. No man could say that, after listening to that speech, he did not understand the bill. So far, then, it was an excellent speech; but as an oration—and surely we had a right to expect a grand oration on such an occasion—it was, we venture to think, a failure. The language was faultless, the clearness of the statement admirable; but there was to our minds a strange want of feeling and heartiness to give life and colour and force to the speech. As we listened a feeling gradually stole over us that either the speaker was not hearty in the cause which he was advocating, or was weighed down by an overpowering sense of the responsibility which he was incurring. We cannot go so far as to say that he seemed as if he had come to bury Caesar, and not to praise him; but we certainly could not feel that the speaker had confidence that he was introducing a measure that would broaden the foundation of our Constitution and give to it new life and vigour. And as the speaker was cold, so was the audience, of course. "If you wish me to sympathise with you, you must show feeling yourself," was the advice given ages ago to an actor. Cold speakers make cold hearers; then, cold hearers make cold speakers; and, perhaps, it was the knowledge that amongst his hearers there were but very few enthusiastic reformers, whilst certainly nearly half the members present were determined opponents to reform, that depressed Mr. Gladstone's spirit and damped his natural fire.

MR. MARSH EMPTIES THE HOUSE.

Mr. Gladstone spoke exactly two hours and a half. He finished with an eloquent peroration, which evoked a burst of cheering; and, whilst the cheers were still rolling round the House, Mr. Marsh, the "Liberal" member for Salisbury, rose, and at the sight of him up rose also the mass of members, like a flock of disturbed pigeons; and all converging to the doorway, that narrow passage was for a time blocked up by such a crowd of hustling, jostling, struggling men, that lives and linen seemed to be in imminent danger. The pent-up stream, however, soon forced its way through the gorge into the spacious outer lobby, and, there dividing itself into two currents—one leading to the dining-room and the other to Palace-yard—was quickly dispersed, leaving Mr. Marsh scraping his one string—to wit, the evils of democracy in Australia—to the delectation of some fifty drowsy early diners. During dinner-time there were five or six speakers; but of these we shall say nothing. We may, though, just note that Mr. Harvey, of Thetford, rose on the Conservative side of the House; and, to the astonishment of everybody, supported the bill. There is, then, at least one deserter in Colonel Taylor's army; and no doubt the gallant Colonel has marked the fact, taken a note of it, and pondered over it as a farmer does the first symptoms of rinderpest in his herd. You must "stamp out" this plague, if possible, Colonel; or, as the Yankees say, you are a "gone coon."

THE SECOND NIGHT.

Happy was the stranger who got into the gallery on Tuesday night, for he heard the best debate that we have had in the House of Commons for many a year. It was a debate worthy of the ancient renown of the House. A full description of it, however, we cannot give. We are limited by the impassable boundaries of time and space, and can do little more than notice shortly the principal speakers. The discussion was opened by Mr. Lowe. It was known that he would speak first, and members, and peers, and strangers came down in great force to hear a set oration from this remarkable man. The Prince of Wales was there, so was the Duke of Cambridge, Lord Cardigan, and a host of other noble celebrities. Mr. Lowe spoke from the third bench upwards behind the Government. When the new Parliament opened he located himself on a seat below the gangway, but he soon flitted away to his old and more appropriate place. Mr. Lowe's speech we must describe in a few words. It must be designated—whether we agree with his arguments or not—a great speech, effectively delivered. But, think not that we mean effective action; for of this Mr. Lowe uses little or none; neither does he avail himself of those powerful auxiliaries of an orator—the expression of the countenance and the flashing of the eye. Mr. Lowe's face, whilst he is speaking, is almost statuesque in its immobility; and as to his eyes, poor man, he is so near-sighted that we question whether he can see the Speaker in his chair; and yet, without the aid of these helps to effective oratory, he managed, with his strong, clear, and flexible voice, to deliver his speech with great effect. But we must pass on from Mr. Lowe; making, however, this remark—in this speech there was little of the characteristic acidity which has marred so many of his speeches, and what there was was so diluted that it was almost imperceptible.

MR. FAWCETT.

And now, passing over all the intervening speeches, we must proceed to notice those of Mr. Fawcett and Mr. Bright. The dinner-hour had come and gone, the House was again filled, when Mr. Fawcett rose. Mr. Goschen rose with him, but there was a call for Mr. Fawcett, and the new Cabinet Minister courteously gave way. Mr. Fawcett's place is just above the bar, and as he spoke he leaned against the barrier. Mr. Fawcett, as our readers know, is totally blind. He is, we believe, the first blind man that was ever elected to serve in Parliament. When he first began to speak there was a dead silence. Two circumstances compelled this silence—first, the infirmity of Mr. Fawcett, and, secondly, his reputation. All were curious to hear how the blind man would speak, and all anxious to learn whether he would justify the reputation which heralded him into the House. True, he had wielded his pen well, but how will he speak? for here, readers, speaking is everything. A man may be as wise as Socrates, as eloquent a writer as Cicero was a speaker; but how will he speak?—that is the question here. Well, Mr. Fawcett's début was in every way a success. He not only got the attention of the House, but held it firmly; and there is no greater proof of success than this. The novelty of a blind man speaking might have secured him a hearing for a time; but the blindness of Homer and Milton, if they could come back again with the halo of their reputation about them, would not alone secure the attention of the members of the House of Commons for half an hour. Every man of them would courteously lead the blind strangers in and out of the House, as they do Mr. Fawcett; but they would not listen to them unless they had something attractive to say.

A CONSPIRACY BROKEN UP.

In order well to understand the wonderful speech of Mr. Bright and its effect, it is necessary for our readers to know that there has been a sort of conspiracy formed in the House "to put him down"—conspirators, Mr. Lowe, Mr. Horsman, and perhaps one or two more—and that this was the first opportunity that Mr. Bright had to meet the conspirators and face the conspiracy. This conspiracy has lately been the talk of the clubs and the House, and when Horsman had poured out his torrent of invective upon the member for Birmingham's head on Monday night, some few Conservative members thought that the conspiracy was a success. "Did you hear Horsman? Bright has met his match at last." This remark, or the like of it, more than once fell upon our ears. But all such notions now are swept to the winds. On Tuesday night Mr.

Bright stepped into the arena fairly to grapple with these conspirators, and it is not too much to say that he tore the conspiracy to shreds, and knocked the conspirators about as if they were mere ninepins. And this was not done by invective, nor by the mere power of oratory or argument, for invective Mr. Bright never resorts to; and on this occasion he was neither so eloquent nor so argumentative as he often is. The feat was accomplished mainly by humorous sarcasm. The effect of this speech upon the House was unprecedented. The laughter seemed to be for a time inextinguishable. Grim old Conservatives were forced to relax their risible muscles; even Mr. Lowe, though most of the sarcasm was pointed at him, could not help laughing; the Deputy Speaker could not preserve his gravity; Gladstone's face was radiant; Disraeli's countenance was lighted up by a smile, though, of course, only faint. The only man who did not laugh was Mr. Horsman: he tried, but failed.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

INDIAN OFFICERS.

EARL DE GREY and RIPPON stated, in answer to the Earl of Ellenborough, that he had not yet time to come to a determination with respect to the report of the Commissioners on the complaints of the officers of the Indian army; and added that he was sensible of the importance of arriving at a speedy decision, and that there should be no unnecessary delay.

THE ABYSSINIAN CAPTIVES.

The Earl of CLARENDON stated, in reply to Lord Chelmsford, that the previous night he received a telegram from Abyssinia, to the effect that Mr. Rassam had written a letter to Colonel Staunton, dated Massowah, Dec. 28, setting forth that a few days before a letter had reached him from King Theodore, in which he was invited to the Court of the King, who offered to send an escort to meet him and furnish him with every facility for his journey. Mr. Rassam intended to start on the 1st of January, and hoped to meet the King on or before the 10th of that month. Things looked promising, and the King's messengers gave Mr. Rassam every hope of the liberation of the captives; and, upon the whole, this was the most satisfactory intelligence that could be received short of that result.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ELECTORAL RETURNS.

THE CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER laid upon the table the promised returns of the occupation rating in counties and boroughs.

CONSUMPTION OF SMOKE.

SIR R. PEEL called attention to the smoke nuisance, and pointed out the necessity of a general measure for dealing with the evil.

After some discussion, Sir G. GREY virtually promised that the matter should be dealt with.

THE DOG NUISANCE.

MR. ELLICE brought under the notice of the Chancellor of the Exchequer the circumstances connected with the collection of the tax upon dogs, and asked whether any alteration was contemplated with regard to that tax.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied that the dog tax had always formed one of the standing difficulties of the revenue department; it was unequally enforced, and a great number of persons who were liable to it did not pay. His own opinion was that the tax might be satisfactorily remodelled—first, by being reduced to 5s. or 5s. a year, converting it from an assessed tax into a license duty, and abolishing all exceptions. However, he was not in possession of sufficient information as to the feeling of the House and the public to justify him submitting any definite proposition at the present moment. Perhaps the best course to be pursued in the first instance would be to appoint a Select Committee to inquire respecting it.

MONDAY, MARCH 12.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

TURRET-SHIPS.

Lord DUNSDAY, in moving for an address to the Crown for various reports relating to Captain C. Coles's designs for turret-ships, expressed an opinion that the Admiralty had not shown themselves very friendly towards that officer, whose ingenuity and industry could not be disputed.

The Duke of SOMERSET, after stating that he should not object to the production of the reports which were asked for, entered into a detailed statement of the proceedings of the Board of Admiralty with respect to Captain Coles. He said that Sir J. Paxton's Administration had disapproved Captain Coles's plans, but that since 1860 the Government had afforded every proper facility for the fair trial of the system of turret-ships. The Board had discouraged competitive experiments between Captain Coles and the Constructor of the Navy, but they had given the former every opportunity of fairly testing the merits of his plans in the Royal Sovereign, and permission had been given him to apply his principles to a new vessel which was being built.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER introduced the Reform Bill. He commenced by touching briefly on the previous history of the question from the time of Mr. Locke King's £10 county franchise in 1851, with the object of showing that the responsibility of dealing with it rested, not with the Government, but with all parties in the House of Commons. He stated that this was the first domestic question which had been discussed in the first Cabinet after Lord Palmerston's death, and he described the measures which had been taken to procure information as to the state of the constituencies. He announced that the Government, though thoroughly sensible of the importance of a general review of the electoral system, in which he included, besides the reduction of the franchise, the redistribution of seats and some attempt to deal with corrupt practices at elections, had determined at the present moment to deal only with the most pressing part of the question—the extension of the franchise; and he justified this decision by referring to the period of the Session, which would make it impossible, even with the most rapid progress, to send the bill to the House of Lords before the middle of July. He mentioned that the discussions out of which the first Reform Bill issued occupied a hundred nights, and contended that the complete treatment of this complex question was beyond the handling of one Session. He proceeded at once to unfold the Government plan, beginning with the county franchise, in which it was proposed to reduce the £50 to a £14 occupation of a house, with or without land. This, he calculated, would add 171,000 persons—almost entirely of the middle classes—to the present constituency. He proposed also to put the possessors of copyholds and leases within Parliamentary boroughs in the same position as freeholders. He discussed next the question of "fancy," or, as he termed them "special franchises," taking generally an unfavourable view of them, but making an exception of the savings-bank franchise, and intimated that the bill would give a vote for the place where he resided to every depositor of £50 of two years' standing, subject to the obligation of making an annual claim. He showed that this would reach some men who were not got at by the tenure and occupation franchises, though he anticipated that the addition to the constituency would not be large, and would be found chiefly in the county constituencies. Passing to the borough constituencies, he divided the persons to be dealt with under four heads—first, those who inhabit separate houses and pay their own rates; secondly, those who inhabit their own houses and are separately rated, but do not pay their own rates—commonly called compound householders; thirdly, the inhabitants of portions of houses, who do not pay rates separately; and, fourthly, lodgers proper. He entered into the statistics of the borough constituencies showing that while the population of the boroughs had increased 79 per cent, the number of voters had only increased 82 per cent since 1832; and he stated that the 489,000 voters in the towns, 128,000, or 26 per cent, belonged to the working classes. He acknowledged that this result of the statistics had somewhat surprised him; but in reply to those who were disposed to felicitate themselves upon it, he demonstrated by elaborate statistics that the working-class element was very unequally distributed, the proportion in sixty boroughs being one third, and in thirty others not more than one tenth, and that the proportion had been diminishing since 1832, when the working-class voters were 31 per cent of the whole body. Advertising for a moment to the operation of the working-class element on the balance of parties, he drew attention, for the consolation of the Opposition, to the significant fact that the metropolitan boroughs, in which there was the smallest proportion of working men, had been most consistent in returning members opposed to Conservative views. The extensions in the franchise contemplated in the bill affected two classes—those who lived in houses above £10 and those who lived in houses below that value. With regard to the first, he stated that it was intended to abolish the rate-paying clause, which would add 25,000 persons to the register, and it was proposed to require that the name of the compound householder, whose rates were paid by the landlord, should be placed on the rate-book, whence it would pass by a spontaneous process to the register, and in this manner he calculated 35,000 new voters would be created. He proposed to deal with persons occupying portions of a house (flats, for instance) and lodgers proper in the same manner—viz., to allow them to be placed on the register if they could show by an annual claim that the premises which they occupied were of the annual value of £10. He professed himself unable to give any information as to the numbers which this proposition would add to the constituent body, but conjectured that they would be almost entirely of the middle class. He next discussed the respective advantages of rating and renting as bases of the franchise, arriving at the conclusion that the best basis was the "clear annual value," and he stated that the bill proposed to ascertain this from the "gross estimated rental" column of the rate-book. He showed that a £6 franchise would add 242,000 of the working classes to the town constituencies,

which, added to their present number, 482,000, would give them a clear majority in the towns, and that he believed Parliament would neither be willing nor was called upon to do. He then announced that the Government had decided to propose a £7 rental suffrage, which, making all the deductions requisite, would enfranchise 144,000 working men, and showed that, whereas a £10 franchise could not easily be attained by a working man who had not £2 a week wages, the £7 franchise could be reached with 26s. weekly wages. He recapitulated some of the principal features of the measure, summing up the general result as an addition of 400,000 voters to the constituent body, of whom 200,000 belonged to the working classes; and this, he said, would amount to a representation of somewhere about two in five of the working classes. He mentioned that the necessity of residence would be abolished, and that Government dockyard labourers would be deprived of their votes, and concluded with an eloquent appeal to the House to make a timely concession to the just claims of the working classes.

Mr. MARSH deprecated any advance towards democracy, of the working of which he gave instances from his own experience in Australia.

Sir J. FERGUSON and Sir H. HOARE concurred in blaming the decision of the Government to deal only with one part of the question.

Several other hon. members having spoken,

Mr. LAING expressed deep disappointment at the piecemeal manner in which the Government had dealt with the question, contending that the Reform statistics showed the case for redistribution to be stronger, and for extension of the franchise downwards weaker, than had been expected.

Mr. BAINES argued generally in favour of Reform, and gave some statistics to show that Mr. Gladstone had over-estimated the proportion of working men in possession of the franchise.

After some remarks from Captain GROSVENOR in support of the bill,

Mr. HORSMAN, in a highly pungent and effective speech, traced the history of the reform agitation, with a view of showing that the revival of the question sprang from Earl Russell's ideas of the necessities of his own position, and not from any real desire for it on the part of the people; and that it was kept alive solely by the exertions of a small and noisy party to whom the balanced state of parties gave an undeserved prominence. He laid down three essentials for the satisfactory handling of this question—that it should be dealt with by a strong Government; that it should be settled for a generation at least; and that the Government should have power, if necessary, to appeal to the country by a dissolution.

On the motion of Mr. LOWE, the debate was adjourned.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The Marine Mutiny Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Labouring Classes' Dwellings Bill was read a second time, and the Artisans and Labourers' Dwellings Bill passed through the same stage *pro forma*, on the understanding that the subject would be referred to a Select Committee.

TUESDAY, MARCH 13.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA.

Lord RUSSELL, after a brief history of the circumstances which had made a change necessary, moved the second reading of the Jamaica Government Bill.

Lord DUNSANY referred to a letter of Governor Eyre, dated in 1864, as evidencing the unsatisfactory working of the late Constitution in Jamaica.

Lord TAUNTON believed that the wretched condition of Jamaica was attributable, not to the faults of the negroes, but to the errors of the local legislature.

Lord GREY expressed similar opinions, and regarded the Act by which they terminated their existence as the only wise Act ever passed by the Legislature of Jamaica.

After some observations from Lord LYTTELTON and Lord LONGFORD, the bill was read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REFORM BILL.

The adjourned debate on the introduction of the Reform Bill was resumed by

Mr. LOWE, who, after a few remarks on the importance of the question, pointed out that the object in revising the franchise ought not to be simply the representation of this or that class or place, but the constitution of the House, and that to consider the franchise as an end in itself was the most serious mistake a statesman could make. He contended that in discussing this question the House should be guided by experience and induction—that the burden of proof was in favour of existing institutions, and he complained that Mr. Gladstone had not said a single word to show why the constitution of the House should be altered. In discussing the provisions of the bill, he observed that the change in the county franchise would increase electoral expenses and effect a material change in the distribution of political power; and, with regard to the lowering of the borough franchise, he showed that the statistics entirely disproved the reason assigned for introducing the bill—viz., that the best portion of the working men were excluded—and demonstrated that the franchise was already in the power of the working classes. He maintained that the causes which had placed the franchise within the reach of the working man—such as the gold discoveries, emigration, and the increase of commerce—were permanent, not temporary, and would increase in effect. Advertising to Mr. Gladstone's objections to a £6 franchise, he maintained that even with a £7 franchise the working classes must speedily become the majority of the constituencies, and drew an argument against further reduction of the franchise from the fact that venality, drunkenness, ignorance, and violence were always found most abounding in the lowest strata of the electoral body. He pointed out various immediate inconveniences of a reduction of the suffrage, and predicted that in time working men, when they found themselves in the majority, would combine for the attainment of class objects. He drew a picture of the abject position in which this House of Commons would be placed if it consented to deal with only one part of the subject at a time, and attributed the course taken by the Government to the advice of Mr. Bright, who foresaw that the instrument thus created would be more efficacious for the redistribution of seats. Among other objections to the lowering of the franchise, he pointed to the indefinite extension of constituencies—which, he said, would divide the representation between millionaires and demagogues; and dwelt on the destruction which it must in the end effect of the present invaluable connection between the House of Commons and the Executive. He argued at some length that the bill would intensify all the defects of the present House of Commons, and showed that it contained no elements of finality, and must, in the end, inevitably lead to a pure democracy.

Mr. VILLIERS contended, in reply to the arguments of Mr. Lowe, that Parliament was pledged to deal with the question of reform, and reminded that right hon. gentleman that he himself had declared that "no reform would be satisfactory that did not reduce the franchise." The present was not, he thought, a fortunate moment to cast a slur upon the working classes, after the fortitude and endurance which they had recently exhibited in the manufacturing districts. The Government had brought in a simple bill to lower the franchise, because they were persuaded that under existing circumstances it would not be possible to carry a more extensive measure in the present Session.

Several hon. members having addressed the House in favour and against the measure,

Mr. FAWCETT, after some strictures on the inconsistency of Mr. Lowe and other Liberal opponents of the bill, referred to the conduct of the labouring classes as an argument for their admission to the franchise. He combated the argument that the working classes would exercise a preponderating influence, mentioning various questions on which they were divided. Though preferring personally a complete measure, he accepted this partial mode of dealing with it, feeling confident that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would not allow it to rest there.

Mr. BRIGHT discussed the provisions of the bill, expressing an approval of the abolition of the ratepaying clause, and pointing out with regard to the county franchise, which he did not altogether approve, that the Opposition had committed themselves to it by Lord Derby's bill, and that it had worked well in Ireland. In answer to those who attributed to him the parentage of the bill, he disclaimed having supported or suggested a £7 franchise, as he had always been in favour of a household franchise, but he reminded the Opposition that Mr. Walpole and Mr. Henley had supported an £8 franchise, and appealed to them not to split so small a difference. He condemned the savings-bank franchise as the worst of all the fancy franchises, and disputed the accuracy of the statistics as to the proportion of working men in possession of the franchise. He made an animated reply to the attacks of Mr. Lowe and Mr. Horsman, and drew an amusing portrait of the new party formed by the alliance of those two gentlemen, insinuating that loss of office was the cause of their anti-reform zeal. He warned the Opposition that if they rejected this bill they would repent it before many years were over, and concluded by expressing his intention—making allowance for the difficulties of the Government and the disinclination of Parliament—to support the bill, though he deemed it inadequate to the occasion.

Lord CRANBOURNE drew attention to the injustice to the rural interest contemplated by the bill, contending that 130 members ought to be added to the county representation to bring it up to the level of the borough representation. He showed that the bill would increase the urban element in the county constituencies, and would hand over 133 boroughs to the working classes. He dwelt on the effect which such a transfer might have on the question of redistribution of seats, and urged the House not to consent to a reduction of the suffrage until it saw the disfranchising schedules. He showed how inadequately property was represented directly under the present system, contending that it had as much right to direct representation as numbers. He read from reports of meetings of the working classes to show the nature of their real demands, and discussed the probability of this bill settling the question, concluding that it would be a useless concession to democracy.

The debate was continued by Mr. J. Hardy, Mr. Hibbert, and Sir R. Knightley; after which the bill was brought in and read a first time, the second reading being fixed for the 12th of April.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

Sir H. HOARE gave notice of his intention to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government would introduce a bill for the redistribution of seats.

Mr. STONE also gave notice that in Committee he should move the omission of the clause disfranchising voters in Government dockyards.

SUNDAY TRAINS IN IRELAND.

Sir C. O'LOGHLEN sought to pass a bill to compel railway companies in Ireland to run at least one train each way on Sundays. There was a long and rather warm discussion, which ended in the measure being defeated by 200 votes to 83.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

On the order for considering the Lords' amendments to the Cattle Plague Bill, after some discussion,

Mr. T. G. BARING said that if the measure were withdrawn the Government were prepared to undertake the responsibility of dealing with the question. They were willing to strengthen the authority of the Privy Council by giving them uniform supervision over the local authorities, and further powers with respect to the isolation of infected districts, the temporary prohibition of fairs and markets, the regulation of the carriage of hides, offal, and manure throughout the whole country, and the movement of cattle for agricultural purposes, in accordance with the requirements of different localities. An Order in Council to effect these objects should at once be issued, and if it were found necessary to ask for further powers from the Legislature that would be done.

Mr. HUNT said the bill would not have been necessary had the Government made this declaration in the first instance. As they had at length, however, agreed to take upon themselves some responsibility, he could not regard his efforts as altogether unsuccessful, and consented to withdraw the bill.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE EASTER RECESS.

Earl RUSSELL gave notice that to-morrow week he would move that the House on its rising adjourn until the 12th of April next.

JAMAICA GOVERNMENT BILL.

On the motion of Earl RUSSELL, this bill passed through Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

GOVERNMENT DOCKYARD VOTERS.

Mr. OTWAY asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he would object to substitute for the clause in the bill for the representation of the people which would deprive the artisans in her Majesty's dockyards of the franchise one enabling those artisans to give their votes by ballot.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the Government could not admit the principle of vote by ballot.

PARLIAMENTARY OATHS BILL.

After some preliminary discussion, the House went into Committee on this bill.

Mr. DISRAELI proposed for the oath now inserted to substitute the following oath, with the omission of the word "defend," to which objection had been taken:—"I, A. B., do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to her Majesty Queen Victoria; and I do faithfully promise to maintain, support, and defend the succession to the Crown as the same stands limited and settled by an Act passed in the reign of King William Third, intituled, 'An Act for the further limitation of the Crown and better securing the rights and liberties of the subject.' And I do further solemnly declare that her Majesty is, under God, the only supreme governor of the realm; and that no foreign Prince, Prelate, State, or Potentate hath any jurisdiction or authority in any of the courts within the same. So help me God." He had altered the oath since he had given notice of his amendment. The words "only supreme governor" he copied from the oath taken in the time of Elizabeth, and the alteration at the conclusion of the oath was a merely technical one to make the meaning more precise.

On a division the amendment was negatived by a majority, the numbers being 236 against 222.

The clause containing the oath of allegiance, as proposed by the Government, with the paragraph relating to the succession added, was then agreed to, and the bill passed through Committee.

The House then went into Committee of Supply.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1866.

THE DOG QUESTION.

THERE are other dog-fanciers besides poor Launce whose pets are nuisances: indeed, the dog-fancier himself may often be included in the same category. The intensely "ossey" man and the intensely "daugy" man is, each in his way, repulsive of aspect—the one suggests the idea of questionable betting transactions; the other instantly calls dog-stealing to mind. When you encounter a man clad in velveteen coat, tight cord smallclothes, and with one or more dogs in his arms or at his heels, you may be sure you look upon a knave—a very "downy cove," at the least. We might carry the matter further, and say that when we see, as we have seen, a young fellow bestowing nauseous caresses upon a not over-handsome specimen of the canine species, we are greatly tempted to regard him as a fool; and when we come across a lady whose whole soul seems absorbed in the care of a poodle, we are always inclined to think it pity that she has not something more interesting and valuable to nurse. Not that we are dog haters, *per se*; on the contrary, we have a high respect for the noble animal—in his proper place. But we dislike to see lavished upon brutes sympathies and attentions which belong to, and might easily find, more worthy objects. Entertaining these sentiments, it will readily be understood that we have very decided opinions regarding the great dog question that has more than once engaged the attention of Parliament and the public recently, and that we fully sympathise with Mr. Ellice in the complaint he made on the subject in the House of Commons the other evening.

This dog nuisance seems to be almost universal. It had attained to such an extent in Ireland that legislation on the subject became imperative. We hope it is now abated in consequence. We presume so, for we have ceased to hear complaints on that score from the sister isle. In the United States and Canada it has been found necessary to adopt a system of dog licenses, and of destroying all dogs not properly licensed and labelled. This provision, we observe, has only recently been put in force in the British province. The denizens of London have vivid and not pleasant knowledge

of the existence of the evil. The reports from the policy courts furnish frequent examples of injury inflicted by savage dogs, owned, or at least partially harboured, by nearly equally savage masters; the wayfarer in the street, whether afoot or on horseback, has painful experience of the persistence of yelping curs snapping at his own heels or those of his horse; women and children are in constant danger from the assaults of the same class of animals; and who has not had his nights made hideous by the howlings of innumerable dogs, for not one of which is a penny of tax ever paid? The English provincial newspapers are continually recording the ravages committed by dogs among the flocks of the farmer; and now it appears from the statements of Mr. Ellice that Scotland suffers to a serious extent from the same infliction. The damage done by these animals, Mr. Ellice tells us, may be reckoned in thousands of pounds every year. Why should this state of things be allowed to continue—particularly when the remedy is simple and easy of application? There may be some difficulty in meeting the mischief under the present system of levying the dog tax; but why not change the system? There is example for it. A different system works well in the United States, and has been adopted by our fellow-subjects in Canada. Why not among ourselves?

A dog tax of 12s. a year, liable to all sorts of exemptions, is manifestly inconvenient, and must be difficult of collection. No one will pay such a tax when it can possibly be evaded; and, unfortunately, the means of evasion are plentiful. But if for this system there were substituted a license with a comparatively small fee, all exemptions being abolished and a condition attached that the licensed dog shall wear a collar on his neck bearing his master's name and address and the number of his registration license, we should have no difficulty in dealing with the matter. All animals worth keeping, and who were really useful, would be registered, and the tax paid for them; while those brutes not worth preserving, for whom no one would pay the fee, could be destroyed. Two important objects would thus be gained: the revenue, we believe, would be benefited, and the public would be delivered from a sore infliction. For comparatively few dogs is the present high duty paid, whereas a moderate tax of 4s. or 5s. would be cheerfully submitted to by all who wish to keep a dog, either for pleasure or for use.

We know by experience in other branches of our fiscal system that high duties encourage smuggling and other forms of evasion of the law; whereas low duties destroy illicit trading and fill the exchequer. Why should we not apply this knowledge to dog-taxing? It would be sure to answer the objects aimed at—raising revenue and abating a nuisance. How the system would work may be illustrated by a case which fell under our observation some years ago. In the county town of Fifeshire, which is one of the district of burghs represented by Mr. Ellice, there was located, at the time to which we refer, an eccentric young lawyer, who indulged his own fancies without much regard to the feelings of his neighbours. One of his vagaries was to keep a kennel of dogs of various species. These he had lodged in the back garden of his house, and was in the habit of spending a portion of each Sunday forenoon in chastising the animals for the delinquencies of which they had been guilty during the week. It may easily be imagined that the concert of sound thus evoked was not of the most melodious nature, and that its weekly recurrence was a sad trouble to the quiet church-going denizens of a Scottish country town. Remonstrances were made, but in vain—our lawyer's garden was his own, and he would do what he liked with it and in it. This went on for some time, till at last the matter got to the ears of the local surveyor of taxes, who immediately went to work with excellent effect. The full amount of dog tax was levied; and the lawyer's dogs, and the nuisance they caused, instantly disappeared. Dog-fanciers generally would be as amenable to reason—as of this kind—as was the eccentric young gentleman of Cupar-in-Fife. Let the experiment be tried; we will answer for its success.

Nor need there be any difficulty in carrying into effect such a system as we have recommended. The police could be authorised to destroy all dogs found without the license badge. They are now employed occasionally for less legitimate purposes; in the suppression of unlicensed game-killing, for example, which is the business, as it is for the advantage, of individuals, and not of the community at large. Why should they not be availed of in putting down the dog nuisance? They would thus be fulfilling their legitimate function of protecting life and property, and at the same helping to fill the coffers of the nation: both most excellent objects, and deserving of a trial. Let the Chancellor of the Exchequer be pressed to perform the promise he has half made, and let us get quit of the dog nuisance with all convenient speed.

A NEW COAL-FIELD.—Some months ago the results of borings in the vicinity of Sessay, in the North Riding, led to the hope that ultimately a deposit of coal worth working would be found on the south side of the Hambleton Range. The search for the mineral has been continued, and it is now reported that upon Lady Downe's estate at Birdforth, three miles west of Coxwold, the engineer has met with a thin seam of very good coal, with indications of a thicker and much more valuable seam below. A shaft is to be sunk. Other owners are about searching for coal all along the Moor base.

PAPAL BRIGANDS IN ENGLAND.—The French construction of the Extra-dition Treaty with England is leading, it is said, to a somewhat curious addition to the "dangerous classes" of the metropolis. It seems that Italian brigands who have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment in gaols under French superintendence, on being released are asked whether they will go to Italy or to England, and, as in the former case it would be going to certain death, they naturally prefer the safer, if less genial, climate of Albion. The result is that the Italian Benevolent Society in London has had a series of fresh claims as disagreeable in themselves as they are burdensome to its funds.

THE LATE DR. WHEWELL.

The funeral of the Rev. Dr. Whewell took place at Cambridge on Saturday last. Most of the shops were closed, and the majority of the members of Trinity were more or less in mourning. The body was inclosed in three coffins; on the outer one was inscribed "William Whewell, D.D., Master of Trinity College, Cambridge. Died March 6, 1866. Aged seventy-one years."

Half a century has passed since Dr. Whewell took his degree. He was born at Lancaster, in 1795, and his career may be taken as evidence of what could at all times be accomplished, even in the most unreformed condition of our educational institutions. His parentage was humble, and it is said that his father intended to devote him to his own handicraft; but he was sent to the Free Grammar School of Lancaster, and proceeded, in due course, to Trinity College. His position in the Mathematical Tripos as Second Wrangler, followed by the acquisition of the second Smith's Prize, proved the possession of the intellectual powers which he cultivated up to the day when he suffered the accident which has since proved fatal. That a second wrangler should be in due time fellow and tutor of his college is a matter of course, but Mr. Whewell possessed an intellectual vitality which was not satisfied with the mere work of a college tutor. In 1828 he was elected Professor of Mineralogy, succeeding to the chair which had been founded for Dr. Clarke; and when the British Association was formed he was requested to draw up a report on the condition of that science. It was in connection with the British Association (of which he was president in 1841) that he drew up the "Reports on the Tides" and on the "Mathematical Theories of Heat, Magnetism, and Electricity," which rank among the first of his mathematical productions. Before this he had been chosen to write "The Bridgewater Treatise on Astronomy;" and it is, perhaps, this circumstance which first suggested to him the "History of the Inductive Sciences," published in 1837, followed in 1840 by the "Philosophy of the Inductive Sciences" which are, undoubtedly, the works by which he will be best known in after years. In 1832 he resigned the Professorship of Mineralogy, but in 1838 accepted the Professorship of Moral Philosophy, which he held till 1855. In 1841, during the Ministry of Sir Robert Peel, he was nominated to the Mastership of Trinity on the resignation of Dr. Wordsworth, and in this position he took an active part in introducing into Cambridge the new studies which have since been recognised by the institution of the Natural and Moral Sciences Triposes. As Professor of Moral Philosophy he founded prizes for the encouragement of that study, which he himself always pursued with avidity. He edited Sir James Mackintosh's "Introduction to the Study of Ethical Philosophy," published a couple of volumes of his own on "Morality," and among his latest productions were some translations of the "Ethical Dialogues of Plato." If we add to this list, in which we have taken no notice of mere University text-books, "Lectures on Political Economy," delivered, at the desire of the late Prince Consort, before the Prince of Wales and other students; an edition of the works of Richard Jones on "Political Economy," "Architectural Notes on Churches in France and Germany," and "Some Specimens of English Hexameters," published in a book containing similar efforts by Sir John Herschel, the late Archdeacon Hare, and Mr. Lockhart, we may give some idea of his extraordinary versatility and industry.

Men of such wide and varied entertainments as Dr. Whewell possessed are always open to the suspicion of being but superficially acquainted with some of the branches of knowledge on which they write, and the Master of Trinity was sometimes disparaged as



THE LATE DR. WHEWELL, MASTER OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.
(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MAULL AND POLYBLANK.)

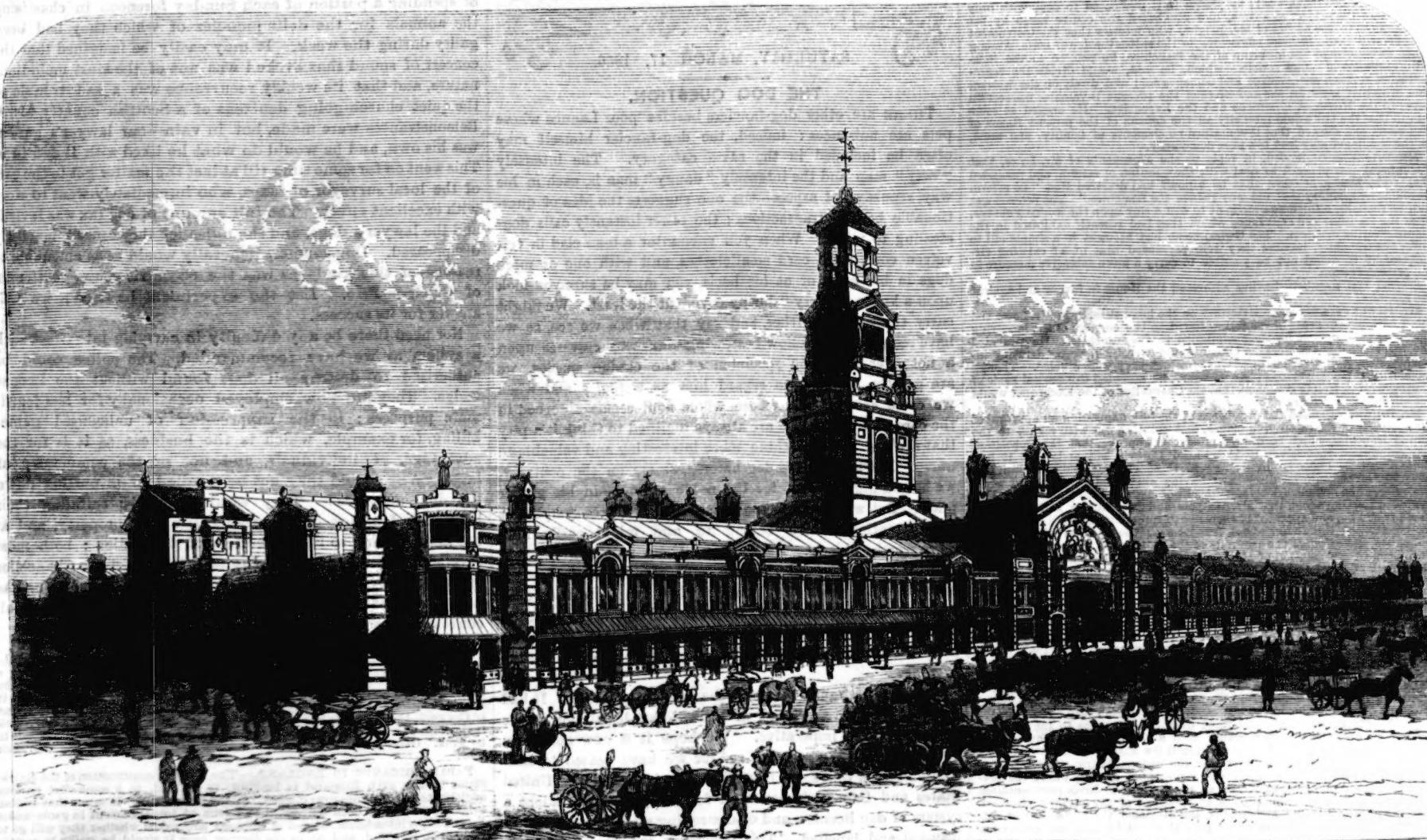
Leibnitz was in his day. The saying that "Science was his forte and Omnicience his foible" is well known, though it had, in truth, less real ground than even epigrams usually have. Dr. Whewell was, doubtless, not uniformly great; but he reached a high degree of excellence in everything he attempted. It is probable that defects in his manners encouraged those who were ready to disparage what they were unable to measure. Dr. Whewell was at times disposed to overbear opponents, and for some years his influence in the University was marred by resentment against this defect. At the same time he often exhibited an urbanity which, coupled with his universal knowledge, made him a delightful companion. Much must be allowed to a man who is compelled to tolerate persons much his inferiors in ability; but Dr. Whewell must be allowed to have exhibited an occasional disdain of those who might fairly be deemed on some subjects his equals. This was in part, however, probably attributable to the highest estimation in which he held the college of which he was the head, and which was wholly free from any alloy of personal vanity. He was prouder of Trinity College than of any of his works, and would have sacrificed every-

thing to magnify it. And it must be added that he endowed it with almost Royal munificence. Some seven or eight years since he built, at his own expense, a hostel for the reception of some of the overflowing students of Trinity, who had been compelled to live in lodgings for want of rooms in college; and at the time of his death he had commenced still larger works by way of addition to the former building, which he had unwillingly deferred in consequence of difficulties in obtaining the necessary site; but the completion of which, we have reason to believe, he took care to provide should be independent of the accident of his death.

Dr. Whewell was twice married and twice a widower. His first wife was Miss Marshall, a sister of Lady Monteagle; and he caused a mortuary chapel, in the cemetery at Cambridge, to be built, after his own designs, as a memorial of his affection. She died in 1854; and he married, secondly, in 1858, the widow of Sir Gilbert Affleck, a sister of the late Mr. Leslie Ellis, himself Fellow of Trinity, whose virtues and whose rare abilities are treasured by his friends, and not least, when alive, by Dr. Whewell. His second wife died on the 1st of April last. The Mastership, which is in the gift of the Crown, and is worth about £3000 a year, has been conferred upon the Rev. Dr. Thompson, Regius Professor of Greek in the University of Cambridge.

THE PROPOSED DEAD-MEAT MARKET
IN SMITHFIELD.

THE suspension of the live-cattle traffic in England, consequent on the measures adopted with the view of stopping the spread of rinderpest, has given a new interest to the question of live cattle versus dead-meat markets, and the erection of a suitable building for the latter purpose in the metropolis has become of paramount importance. A vast quantity of the meat consumed in London now arrives in the form of dead carcasses, and the old Newgate Market is utterly inadequate to the exigencies of the trade. Our contemporary, the *Building News*, a few days ago, published the following remarks upon the subject:—"The chief entrance to the filthy hole known as the dead-meat market of the metropolis is so choked full of carts and horses, dogs, butchers, live dealers, and dead cattle, that even the stout policemen can scarcely keep order among the surging mass of men and beasts, and have to work hard to prevent absolute riot. We notice here that the worst-behaved of the crowd are not the drivers of the railway-vans, among whom there seems to be a fair amount of discipline, but the men in charge of a number of small carts, the meat of which is packed in queer-looking hampers, of no particular colour, and certainly not particularly clean. These men, we are told, are 'Whitechapel butcher.' It appears that the greater quantity of foreign cattle and sheep—amounting to no less than 2855 oxen, 323 calves, and 8847 sheep, or above 12,000 head, in the week ending Saturday last—which is imported from abroad is sent into the mysterious regions of Whitechapel, there to be converted into meat. It is here, in Warwick-lane, not wide enough for two donkey-carts to pass each other, that we meet the tides of food-supply for the great metropolis—the foreign tide from Whitechapel, and the railway-borne tide from Land's End, the Irish Channel, and John o' Groat's. Steam by sea and steam by land have carried the life sustenance of the three million inhabitants of London, thus far, with the precision of clockwork—it is not more than twelve hours ago since yonder wagon-load of prime beef left Scotland; but here, in this wretched lane, the whole wonderful system of traffic comes to an ignominious standstill. Is there anything more disgraceful to City management



DESIGN FOR THE NEW DEAD-MEAT MARKET IN SMITHFIELD.—(MESSRS. KNIGHTLEY AND NEW, ARCHITECTS.)

than this so-called metropolitan dead-meat market? The reply to the question which we ask ourselves, here in Warwick-lane, at five a.m., is in volleys of hideous oaths, worthy of Newgate. In his examination before the Cattle Plague Commissioners, Mr. James Allport, traffic manager of the Midland Railway, speaking modestly, declared that 'to regulate the supply of meat for London from the country would involve an amount of organisation which, much as railway men are accustomed to that sort of thing, he should shrink from.' As far as we have been able to learn from our visit to Newgate Market, and inquiries made on the spot, we must say that the 'railway men' are certainly doing their duty, and, perhaps, more than their duty in this extraordinary emergency; but that the men to whom the local government of the metropolis is intrusted, the 'fathers of the City' in the first instance, are shamefully neglecting their business. This dead-meat market at Newgate is nothing less than a public disgrace. Even before the breaking out of the cattle plague there were sent into that dark and dirty hole, dignified by the name of a market, not less than 120,000 tons of meat annually, or above five millions of pounds per week, and the quantity at present has probably tripled or quadrupled. From all the nooks and corners of these islands, and even from the farthest end of Europe, food is gathered to supply the wants of the greatest assemblage of human beings in the world; and when it has been gathered at so much trouble, and an infinite expenditure of skill and ingenuity, and after it has been carried to the very heart of the big city with marvellous speed, there is not so much as a decent shed to shelter the valuable stores. Oh, that but 'railway men,' so much abused, in our days, by philanthropic talkers, could take the matter in hand for a single year, or only a single month! For half a generation the 'dismarketing of Newgate Market' has been talked of in the City, and still there is nothing but talk. And there seems no likelihood that the thing will ever be done, unless by one of our great public companies. The Great Northern Railway already has commenced market-building, and others, we hope, will follow in the path. Nothing but a good market-place, fit for the requirements of London, is wanted to complete the revolution in the traffic from 'live cattle' to 'dead meat'—a revolution desirable in many respects, and one which will benefit the railway companies who carry dead meat instead of live stock to the London and other great markets of the country."

Our Engraving represents a design for a dead-meat and poultry market, supplied by Messrs. Knightley and Mew; and we learn from the *Builder* that, "in the latter part of the year 1864, the Corporation of the city of London advertised for designs for new meat and poultry markets, to be erected in Smithfield; and on the 1st of December of that year designs were sent in by several competitors. That submitted by Messrs. Knightley and Mew, and which we have engraved, was selected for the chief premium of £300. There was a condition that the Corporation reserved to itself the right of employing, if they thought fit, their own architect to carry out the work—a stipulation neither fair nor wise."

"The site presented some difficulties, the space beneath being excavated for underground railways, which come in at various angles. Openings were to be arranged in the floors of the markets, to enable the meat, &c., to be lifted from the railways to the markets' floors level. The position of these lift-spaces interfered much with the groups of shops. Difficulties also arose in consequence of the wishes of the trade, some desiring long shops, others corner shops. A close market was the wish of many, and an open market the desire of the public. To meet these irreconcileable views, Messrs. Knightley and Mew prepared two designs; one having the shops arranged in groups of four around the outlines of the site, with spaces between, each group thus forming corner shops; and the other having shops arranged in long lines; thus deep shops were obtained."

"The site is 625 ft. long by 240 ft. broad, and upon it 200 shops of various sizes were required. Each shop has on the ground floor a small office, and a staircase leading to an upper office, with lavatory, &c. This upper compartment takes up one half only of the area, consequently one half of each shop has a height of 28 ft. The roofs are either flat or simple A roofs; the avenues between the shops have iron roofs covered with slates, glass louvres to the sides, and spring-blinds to run horizontally to keep out the heat.

"The outer walls, it was proposed, should be built of Portland stone, the penthouse roofs to be covered with lead and supported on iron brackets, the timbers arranged in deeply moulded panels. Penthouse roofs were suggested in preference to a colonnade, which would obstruct the public way. The large archway shown in the long side of the design, relieved with sculpture, spans the public roadway that crosses the market site. The central tower, in its lower stage, contains a refreshment-room; above, a clock; and again, above that a bell. The architects guaranteed the carrying

thing of beauty and a joy till it was accidentally broken, so that he spent much time in its careful preparation, with an experimental appreciation of the right places to leave the knots and where to make the best handhold.

Everybody who has seen the numerous illustrations with which Mr. J. D. Watson has enriched our magazine literature will recognise his well-known talent for expression and his graceful way of telling a picture story in the exquisitely-harmonious sketch from which our Engraving is taken."

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

On Wednesday, at noon, a well-attended meeting of merchants and others interested in Atlantic telegraphy was held at the Royal Exchange, for the purpose of hearing explanations from Mr. Cyrus Field, Captain Anderson, Mr. Canning, and Mr. Varley, as to the present position and prospects of the undertaking. Mr. Field was voted to

the chair, and he explained the circumstances under which the enterprise had been handed over by the Atlantic Telegraph Company to the Anglo-American Telegraph Company, which is now subscribing £600,000 for the purpose of laying the new cable and completing the old one. He explained that this course was imperative to ensure the carrying out of the project during the ensuing summer, in consequence of the decision of the Attorney-General that the Atlantic Telegraph Company had no power to issue 12 per cent preference shares. The new company would be answerable for the successful laying of the cable, and would then have a claim to a certain amount on the profits of the undertaking. If any shareholder thought this unjust, he was, of course, welcome to take as many shares as he liked in the new company. Mr. Canning then gave a short account of the experiences gained, and the improvements effected in the machinery. He had not the slightest fear but that in their next effort they would be quite successful, not only in laying the new line, but in recovering and completing the one partially laid last summer. Captain Anderson said they were prepared to anticipate even worse difficulties than any yet met, and no difficulty had been suggested which they were not fully prepared to meet and overcome. He had the fullest confidence in the Great Eastern. Mr. Varley, the electrician, entered more fully into the details of the project, and showed the advantages which the new cable would possess over the old one, in having

a greater breaking strain. He also showed that, with improved apparatus, the recovery of the old cable and its completion would be a work of little difficulty, and of almost certain success. As to the earnings, he showed that the Persian Gulf cable earned nearly £100,000 a year, and that with bad management and great delays; with the Atlantic cable, and the improved instruments for the transmission of messages, which were extremely sensitive and delicate, he believed it would be no exaggeration to say that at the proposed rate of charges, it would be quite able to remit messages at a speed which would earn a million pounds per annum. In the course of his remarks, he explained the manner in which the splicings or joinings of the cables are formed. So delicate, said he, were the tests employed that it was often found that the state of an operator's nerves or skin seriously affected the work; and it had often happened that when a man had been living freely the previous day his work in splicing failed to pass the test, and was rejected. In answer to questions, Mr. Canning and Mr. Varley explained that the state of the cable at the bottom of the Atlantic up to the point where it parted was as perfect now as the day it was laid. Mr. Varley also stated that the first cable laid was destroyed by the immense power required, owing to the imperfect instruments and probable defective insulation to remit words at a rapid rate. As high a power as 5000 cells to one battery had been then employed; but with the last cable an order had been made that no greater power than twenty cells should

"PREPARING A CUDGEL."—(FROM THE PICTURE, BY J. D. WATSON, IN GAMBART'S EXHIBITION.)



PREPARING A CUDGEL.

In the days when laws were not quite so prompt or impartial as they now are, there was a pretty frequent appeal to that revenge which has been defined as a sort of wild justice, and the cudgel and the quarterstaff were occasionally found to be very effectual arbiters in a difficulty. In our own time, except in some parts of Ireland, where the traditions of Donnybrook may still be observed and the soberest man at a fair may make an excursion outside a tent for the purpose of "feeling for heads" on which to operate with a well-seasoned "shillelagh," we have pretty well abandoned the arbitration of the cudgel in modern disputes, however strongly we may feel inclined to appeal to it in the case of so-called spiritualists or others who are permitted to manifest, to the detriment of common sense and public morals.

In the old days, however, the best cudgel-player was a man of mark—or rather a man of many marks—and his weapon was to him

be used, and it was quite possible to obtain with the improved instruments a rate of five or six words a minute, with a power of only a single cell. A gentleman remarked that there was a letter in the *Times*, signed by an engineer, and apparently a man of some note, but he could not recollect his name, who had declared that it was a mechanical impossibility to raise the sunken cable because of its great weight. He wished to know if the company had thought it worth while to answer that letter. Mr. Field remarked that, if the company were to answer all the letters addressed to them, they would soon have to employ the whole of their capital in the task. They had already given, that day, an answer. Captain Anderson said he had not answered all the letters he had received because he could not do so. One writer, a lady, proposed to raise the cable with a magnet. There were lots of people who wrote to say they would raise the cable, but they must have £10,000 for doing it; £10,000 seemed a favourite sum with such people. Mr. Field said that one gentleman called upon him and proposed to sink a hollow tube to the bottom of the sea, and then go down in it and look for the cable. He plagued him considerably, until one morning he (Mr. Field) told him that he had decided that the thing could be done, and he (the inventor) should have the appointment to go down and look for it. He had not seen him since. Captain Anderson said it was only fair to admit that many of the letters contained very sensible suggestions. The proceedings then concluded, with a vote of thanks to the speakers.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY, accompanied by Princess Helena and the Princess of Hohenlohe visited the camp at Aldershot on Tuesday. The various troops were inspected, and a review took place. This is the first visit her Majesty has paid to the Aldershot encampment.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has become a member of the Cosmopolitan Club; likewise of White's. Of course, there was no ballot on such occasions.

THE FRENCH PRINCE IMPERIAL has recovered from his attack of measles.

THE HON. AUGUSTUS LIDDELL has been appointed treasurer, and the Hon. Eliot Yorke and Lieutenant Balfour Haig equerries, to Prince Alfred.

THE QUEEN has been pleased to institute a new decoration, to be styled the Albert Medal, to be awarded to persons who shall have endangered their own lives in endeavouring to save persons from shipwreck or other perils of the sea.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON has appointed Friday next, the 23rd inst., as a day of humiliation on account of the cattle plague.

THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL of the city of London have resolved to purchase Southwark Bridge.

BISHOP COLENSO was formally excommunicated by the Bishop of Cape-town on Jan. 5.

THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS is to be lighted with 3000 petroleum lamps.

MR. WORMS and PROFESSOR SIMONDS are at variance respecting the former's treatment of infected cattle; the Professor says it is a perfect failure, and Mr. Worms says it is not.

THE SHENANDOAH, which is now lying in the Birkenhead dock, has been ordered by the United States Consul to be sold.

THE CROATIAN DIET has agreed to send deputies to the Hungarian Diet; the deputies are to be furnished with explicit instructions as to their conduct.

COLONEL BRUCE, who signed the Bhootan Treaty, died on his voyage home from Calcutta. The gallant officer's disease was, we understand, attributable to the exposure he underwent during that disastrous campaign.

SIR S. M. PETO, Bart., M.P., is unable to attend to the discharge of his Parliamentary duties, or to any business in London, by an attack of illness of some severity, which detained him in the country.

MRS. STONEWALL JACKSON has written a letter stating that contributions on her behalf are given under a *false impression*, and that it is inconsistent with her ideas of rectitude and honour to receive them.

A VOLUME OF ESSAYS FOR THE TIMES, on ecclesiastical and social subjects, by Dr. Rigg, author of "Modern Anglican Theology," is in the press, and will shortly be published by Mr. Stock.

MR. HOME, the spiritualist, after trying the stage of the unknown world, the platform of the lecturer, and the studio of the artist, is now in training, preparatory to making an essay in sock and buskin, to come off, it is said, in the next summer. The locality spoken of is the Princess's Theatre.

MR. ODO RUSSELL has succeeded in inducing the Roman Government to grant a site for a Protestant cemetery at Civita Vecchia. Efforts to obtain this concession have been made from time to time ever since 1821, but hitherto have always failed.

THE CONTRIBUTIONS to the Nonconformist Memorial Hall already reach the sum of £32,400. Mr. J. Remington Mills, M.P., heads the subscription with £10,000, and Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., comes second with £5,000.

A HAMPER OF WINE, sent from Chester for Beaumaris, was detained at Bangor because the bottles were packed in straw, which it was feared might be infected with the rinderpest!

GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN, it is stated, is studying military science in order to have a subordinate command in the Fenian army, which is shortly "to invade Ireland," and that he is preparing his addresses to his troops, which "will be modelled after the famous ones of Napoleon I."

THE PERUVIAN SHIPS *Independencia* and *Huescar* have proceeded direct to the Pacific for the purpose of taking part in the approaching struggle between Spain and the allied republics of Chile and Peru.

MESSRS. WARD, LOCK, AND TYLER have acquired the right to publish all Miss Braddon's novels, and a uniform library edition in volumes at six shillings each, and also a cheap edition at two shillings, will be at once issued. Both editions will have the advantage of the author's latest revision.

PRINCE NAPOLEON, on his way to Florence lately, went from Leghorn to pay a visit to the Island of Elba, and devoted a considerable time to an examination of the various objects connected with the Emperor Napoleon's residence there, which are now collected in the public museum.

MR. THOMAS CARLYLE, who is said to be in excellent health, will deliver his inaugural address as Rector of Edinburgh University in the course of next month. A bust of the new Rector, fresh from the studio of Mr. Wooller, will be exhibited at the next exhibition of the Royal Scottish Academy.

THE EMIGRATION FROM GERMANY TO NORTH AMERICA is daily assuming greater proportions. Up to the end of May 10,000 persons have already engaged to leave via Hamburg and Bremen. The emigrants are nearly all northerners and Protestants, whereas ten years ago the vast majority consisted of southerners, many of them Roman Catholics.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES KEAN, having completed their Transatlantic engagements, are about to return to England. They will leave New York on April 18, and are to appear at the Theatre Royal, Liverpool, on May 2, 3, and 4. From Liverpool they come to London, and will make their first appearance at the Princess's Theatre on Thursday, May 17, in "Henry VIII."

A WOMAN was charged on Wednesday at the Southwark Police Court with conveying into Horsemonger-lane Gaol a crowbar, with intent to pass the same to a convict under sentence of penal servitude. The magistrate said it was a very serious charge of felony, and committed the accused for trial.

AN AMERICAN EPITAPH.—A surgeon in General Sherman's army copied the following inscription from a tombstone in a graveyard at Cheraw, South Carolina, while on a march through that State:—

My name—my country—
What are they to thee?
What, whether high or low,
My pedigree?
Perhaps I far surpass
All other men:

Perhaps I fell below them all!
What then?
Suffice it, stranger,
Thou seest the tomb!
Thou know'st its use;
It hides—no matter whom.

DEVONPORT ELECTION.—A Parliamentary return relative to serving Speaker's warrants respecting the Devonport election petition on voters in Devonport Dockyard was issued on Saturday. The return is signed by Thos. Symonds, the Admiral Superintendent. It appears that on the 20th of February a telegram was received from the Admiralty directing that every facility should be given for serving the warrants on workmen in the yard in the case of the petition against the sitting members. A second telegram, signed "W. G. Romaine," was sent on the 21st to the same effect. On the same day application was made by the agents for the petition for facilitating the service of the warrants; and thereupon an order was issued by the Admiral Superintendent, directing the persons named to assemble the next morning, at ten o'clock, in the saleroom. On the 26th of February a note was received from Lord C. Paget (inclosing the notice of Sir John Pakington), asking for full information, as he did not know what it adverted. To this the Admiral Superintendent replied, stating what he had done, and added that the men were perfectly uninterested with their own officers, and that he had given no authority whatever for anything else but the serving of the warrants. The officers, moreover, state that they did not attend, nor did they know of anyone who did attend at the place where the men were to be served. The workmen were absent from their work under subpoena by special warrant from one hour to one hour and a half. On the 2nd of March a telegram was received ordering that the agent of the petitioner was not to be allowed to do more than serve the warrants, and was on no account to be allowed to use any of the dockyard buildings for the examination of the workmen.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

BETTING on Tuesday morning was 6 to 4 that the Reform Bill would not pass; but Tuesday night's debate changed the opinion of the betting men considerably. I believe that the Government has no doubt that the bill will pass the Commons. The Government whips calculate that they will lose about ten men. This, if they all vote, will make twenty in a division; but, allowing for this loss, the Government will still have a majority of thirty. This will be hardly sufficient to induce the Lords to pass the bill, I think; but all will depend upon Lord Derby, and what he may resolve to do cannot be divined. The great battle-ground in Committee will be the £14 franchise in counties. The savings bank clause, I think, will be withdrawn.

The Speaker still continues very unwell; he will not take the chair again before Easter.

I have received, and read carefully, a copy of Mr. M. F. Tupper's historical play entitled "Raleigh"; and this is my judgment of it. The rhythm is generally good; the diction is in purely nineteenth-century style; the incidents fairly, though not strikingly, arranged; and the characters, as a rule, pretty well sustained. The play will stand the test of reading—whatever may be its fate in acting—as well, or perhaps better, than many modern plays that I know. As a nineteenth-century play, remember. But there my commendation must stop. There is not a single line throughout the whole piece which can be dignified with the name of poetry; all is level—proportion; and from the purely nineteenth-century style of the language employed, we can never be induced to carry ourselves back, as we should do in such a piece, to the sixteenth century, to the days of Elizabeth and James I. Mr. Tupper, in his prefatory notice, derides the "three artificial unities of the 'Poetics,'" but insists upon unity, or consistency, of individual character. Now, surely a part of the "consistency of individual character" consists in making men and women talk in language appropriate to the time in which they are supposed to have lived; and yet Mr. Tupper employs a style, and even uses words and phrases, which did not come into use till long after the period with which he is dealing. Special merit is claimed for maintaining the "vernacular of King James to its minutest detail;" but, unluckily, that Royal personage is made to employ a curious higgledy-piggledy jumble of Scotch and English. For instance, "I maun ha'e the lond; I maun ha'e it for Carr. Lead her off." Why should his Majesty have jumped to his English in the last sentence? Why not stick to his native idiom, and say, "Tak' her awa'"? At all events, to be consistent with himself, he should have said *off*, and not *off*. There are other incongruities, or inconsistencies, if Mr. Tupper likes that word better. As this, for example:—In the first scene Raleigh is sent forth from home to take part in repelling the Armada, as though it were his first entry into the world. He receives his father's sword, his mother's Bible, a cloak—the famous cloak of the muddy pool adventure—from cousin Lilly, otherwise Elizabeth Throckmorton, and blessings from everybody; and yet it subsequently appears that he has already combated the Spaniards in the Low Countries with Sydney, and been engaged in expeditions to the Spanish Main with Drake, and Hawkins, and Frobisher. Surely a man who had already run such a career did not need the advice, and petting, and fuss, which Mr. Tupper makes attendant upon his departure from Hayes-Barton to fight Phillip II's Armada.

Raleigh's servant, Gregory, is the funny man of the play, for funniment is attempted; but Gregory's humour is—well, not like the humour Shakspeare would have devised for such a character. As a whole, the play never rises to the height of the great argument the theme might have suggested. The two closing lines—

There is not such another head in England

Now left to be cut off,

uttered by a nameless man in the crowd at Raleigh's execution, are perhaps the best in the whole piece; and it is for that reason I have quoted them.

By-the-by, I have been made the victim of that disreputable practice by which book-puffers manage, by garbling critiques, to obtain commendations for trash, and to pervert a critic's meaning. Your readers will remember that I sent you, a few weeks ago, a paragraph in reference to a rhymed version of Mr. James Greenwood's "Night in a Workhouse." I spoke of the rhymester's performance in anything but flattering terms; and yet I find that, by picking out half a dozen words, and ignoring the context, I am made to appear as praising the rubbish. This is most abominable conduct; and all the worse, too, when perpetrated by a pretendedly-religious man, who writes would-be pious verses, under such titles as "Pray without ceasing," and so on. The wretched rhymester—let him never for a moment suppose himself a poet—should "pray without ceasing" for his own conversion to more honest courses. If the garbling system is carried on much longer, critics, in self-defence, will be compelled to ignore entirely all publications which they cannot fully and in all respects approve. Who will be the greatest losers then? Not good, honest authors and conscientious critics, you may be sure.

Local journalism is now an established institution in London. Every district of the metropolis has its organ or organs. Some of them, to be sure, are not very high class productions; but others are conducted in very creditable way indeed. The latest issue of this description which I have seen emanates from the pleasant suburban village of Hornsey, and rejoices in the alliterative title of the *Hornsey Hornet*. It is, of course, designed to remedy all the ills that beset humanity in that locality; but has also the more practical object of benefiting the village newsman, who, unhappily, is blind, having incurred that misfortune while pursuing his avocation of a compositor. The *Hornet* is smartly written, and is besides the neatest specimen of a London local print that I have seen. I wish it success.

Mr. Thomas Gray, of the Board of Trade, recently delivered, at the Society of Arts, a remarkable lecture upon the defects of Governmental supervision of our mercantile marine, which he holds to be, generally, worse than useless. Mr. Gray's lecture excited much interest, and has since obtained him the honour of an adverse critique in the *Saturday Review*, which, suggests that, holding such opinions as to the worthlessness of the system, he is in duty bound to resign his office. Mr. Gray will probably not see the matter in this light, or understand that the possession of brains unfit him for his position. Still, it is not usual that suggestions for reform and exposures of deficiencies come from official sources. One could wish, however, that such were the rule instead of the exception.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

By some accident, somewhere, the last number of *Temple Bar* has not reached me.

The *Shilling Magazine* was very late this time. It is an excellent number; by which I do not mean that everything in it is good, but that some of the articles have sufficient merit to put out of sight the badness of the others. The paper by Mr. Bonamy Price, entitled "What are Sovereigns and Bank Notes?" is far more interesting than half the stories now running in the magazines; I very warmly commend it to our readers. There are some very interesting letters from the late John Gibson, and a good memoir of Cosway, the miniature-painter. Mr. Sydney Whiting's story, "Pseudologis; An Episode in the Life of a Barrister," is good. What do you think of this for a situation?—Early in life, the mind of a naturally truthful girl receives a twist, or a wrench, for the nature of which I must refer to the story itself, and she becomes a regular teller of innocent, motiveless lies. It so happens that one of the lies she tells her husband is a denial that she had been away from home at a time when her husband had seen her away from home. He separates from her—and that is all I shall say. You must go the *Shilling Magazine* for the rest of it.

I promised to refer again to "The Night Wayfarer" in *The Argosy*. This "Fantasy" is signed "W. A.;" but without that

signature it would have been possible to fix the authorship, so many things are there which remind the reader of passages in Mr. Allingham's poems. My intention was to trace these out one by one; but I find it would occupy far too much space, and must be content with just calling attention to the facts. I am glad to see that so many intelligent critics are with me in finding Mr. Charles Reade's love-making in "Griffith Gaunt" so pleasant.

I also promised to refer again to *Macmillan*. Doctor Whewell's article on "Coate and Positivism" has a tone of good-humoured superiority about it which is very characteristic; and those who know that very hard blows have been dealt by Mr. Mill and Mr. Lewes (especially Mr. Lewes) in time past to the Master of Trinity, will appreciate, scarcely without surprise, the handsome manner in which he speaks of his old antagonists. On page 357, however, he shows that he does not understand the Positivist's rejection of final causes. If we refuse to say the eye was made for seeing, because we refuse to entertain any teleological conception, we cannot put, as Dr. Whewell does, the reverse case, and say the eye was not made for seeing—the hypothesis will not admit this; for though that proposition is a contradiction of the particular instance, it is not a contradiction of teleology—it is only reading it backwards. If final causes are to be rejected, we are, by the hypothesis, shut up from saying either that the eye was made for seeing or that it was not. To prevent misunderstanding, I may add that I am, in this question, on the side taken by Dr. Whewell, and against that taken by the Positivists. I also agree that an hypothesis which will not permit a dilemma is, *ipso facto*, absurd; but the absurdity in this case is not a part of the system of thought, it is the system. I must with regret break my promise about Mr. Simon's article, "Can We See Distance?" because to fulfil it would now occupy too much space; but I will take another opportunity of referring to the subject. Some of the readers of this column may remember that I called attention to Mr. Abbott's book (which is criticised by Mr. Simon) when it first appeared. The whole question requires restating, and if Mr. Bailey and Mr. Abbott have misunderstood Berkeley, it was because they naturally took him to mean something different from an elaborated truism.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Lent always has been, and, I suppose, always will be, a dull season for theatricals. I have no positive news to chronicle since last week. *King Lear* has been revived at DRURY LANE, and has been alternated with "The Merchant of Venice." "The Overland Route" has been reproduced at the HAYMARKET; and Mr. Jefferson's last nights are announced at the ADELPHI. Apropos, Mr. Jefferson and Mrs. Billington commence their starring tour as Rip and Vrouw van Winkle at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, on the 26th. I wish every possible success to the "happy pair."

"Henry Dunbar" is to be withdrawn from the OLYMPIC playbills, and a new comedy is to take its place.

The Prince and Princess of Wales visited the ST. JAMES'S THEATRE last week, and saw "She Stoops to Conquer." It is an agreeable thing to contemplate the success of comedy at this theatre. I mean real comedy, and not long farces or bad compounds of melodrama and farce, or ghastly translations of Parisian life that have no reality in Paris or anywhere else.

The Prince of Wales has ordered of Messrs. Southwell, the famous photographers of Baker-street, an album containing photographic portraits of all the artistes of the Prince of Wales's Theatre in the characters they represent in the comedy of "Society." I have seen two of them—Mr. Clarke, as Mr. John Chodd, jun.; and Mr. Montgomery, as Dr. Olinthus O'Sullivan—and they are excellent.

EGYPTIAN HALL.

On Monday evening Mr. Arthur Sketchley gave his new entertainment for the first time. It is called "Mrs. Brown at Home and Abroad." It is now nearly three years since this gentleman appeared before the London public, and since then "Mrs. Brown" has become familiar as a household word. A good thing is always a good thing; and Mrs. Brown, as portrayed by the voice and pen of Mr. Arthur Sketchley, is always amusing. Indeed, the good lady's conversation and strictures on those things that come within the limited sphere of her observation are so false to reason and true to nature, that they are not only agreeable when rendered by Mr. Arthur Sketchley, but also when perused in the pages of *Fun*. Mrs. Gamp in the person of Mr. Robert Keeley was funny, and she was funnier still in the green-covered monthly numbers of "Martin Chuzzlewit;" and the same thing may be said of Mrs. Brown. Her remarks are so truly humorous that they would bear continual quotation. She is the type of a large class—the kind-hearted, narrow-minded matron of the very small shop-keeping class. Her mouth drops pearls of false perception and mispronunciation. "Ah," says the worthy creature, as she surveys Billingsgate, "they may well call it Billingsgate, for such language I never heard!" "A new-laid egg," she remarks, contemptuously, "no more a new-laid egg than I am!" "And there, sure enough, stood the clothes-basket, as empty as ever it was born!" Mrs. Brown's similes are admirable; witness her description of the servant-girl who "steps out for firewood, as she burns up as if it was forests, though only seven bundles for sixpence!"

But all this time I am neglecting the new entertainment. Mrs. Brown, in her latest edition of herself, travels up the Rhine, and relates her adventures by steam-boat and train from the Tower of London to Baden-Baden. Mrs. Brown is accompanied on her tour by her husband, the estimable Mr. Brown, who is one of those powerful arguers found in tavern parlours, vestries, and discussion clubs. Mrs. Brown, too, exchanges words and glances with new faces—Lady Graver and her daughters, and a French gentleman, who is as well acquainted with the Rhine as most Parisians are with everything in the world outside the Barriers, and who appears to have read guide-books for the sole purpose of confusing himself and deceiving his friends. The panorama which accompanies Mrs. Brown, on which Mrs. Brown accompanies—I can hardly say which form of expression is correct, so completely are the panorama and Mrs. B. welded together—is excellently painted and is capitally managed. Some sprightly songs are introduced, and it is most probable that Mrs. Brown will take her departure from London Bridge-wharf for many evenings at eight, and for many Saturday afternoons at three precisely.

DEATH OF AN AFRICAN EXPLORER.—Intelligence has been received from Zanzibar of the death of Baron von der Decken, who was exploring in Eastern Africa. It appears that the traveller left Zanzibar on the 15th of June last, in his yacht, and made his way into the interior of Africa by ascending the River Djub, and on Sept. 10 he arrived at Berderia, a town of the Somali tribe. He was at first well received by the ruler of the country; but upon his announcing his intention to continue his exploration up the River Djub, the disposition of that chief towards him was entirely changed. Persisting, however, in his intention, the Baron von der Decken had the misfortune to lose his steamer at the cataracts which close the Djub about twenty kilometres above Berderia. On Oct. 1 his encampment was attacked by a horde of Somalis. An artist and a mechanic attached to the expedition were killed. The Baron himself, weakened by the effect of cholera, from which he had suffered in June, and surrounded by myriads of savages, for a time kept them off by the aid of his revolver, but upon his stooping to pick up some of his arms the crowd rushed upon him and dragged him to the river's bank, where he was slain by his assailants.

GERMAN HOSPITAL, DALSTON.—On Monday night the twenty-first anniversary dinner took place, at the London Tavern—the Earl of Dudley in the chair. The company numbered about 150. After the usual preliminary toasts, the noble chairman proposed the toast of the evening, and, in doing so, made a very effective appeal on behalf of the charity. It appeared from the statement put forward that the number of in-patients admitted during the year amounted to 920, of whom 698 were males, and 222 females. The out-patients attended to were 14,524. Since the opening of the hospital 192,115 in and out patients participated in the benefits of the charity. The receipts for the year amounted to £4516, and the expenditure to £4522. Besides this small deficiency, there remained a debt of £2000, occasioned by the recent addition to the building, which, it was hoped, would be wiped off by the results of the present anniversary dinner. It should be mentioned that, though principally an hospital for the Germans residing in London, its benefits are freely extended to persons of all nations who require its aid. The new addition to the hospital has increased the annual expenditure, and one ward remains closed for want of funds. The subscriptions amounted to £2620, being an increase of £700 on the receipts of last year.

Literature.

Poems. By THOMAS CHATTERTON. With a Memoir by Frederick Martin, Author of "The Life of John Clare." Illustrated. London: Charles Griffin and Co.

This is a very pretty book. The paper, the printing, and the steel engravings with which it is illustrated, are all of the best. Mr. Martin's little memoir, too, is informing, and puts a great deal into small compass; so that this edition of the poor boy's poems may be sincerely recommended.

We have had a great deal of discussion about Chatterton's character, and very different estimates have been formed of it. It seems to us that his notions of right and wrong were quite up to the standard of his times, and of the literary and political society in which he moved. His offer to supply Horace Walpole with imaginary anecdotes for an historical book about painters was wrong; but it is plain that he habitually thought of literature as a *craft*—a *métier*; and he probably had no idea that a work professing to be historical should contain only (what was believed to be) fact. This is not extraordinary. It is not every mind that draws, or that drew, the distinctions we draw in such matters. Early historians and biographers thought nothing of putting into the mouths of their characters any speeches they considered appropriate. If literature takes in the mind the shape of mere reproduction or imitation, the only question that occurs to the literary artist will be (not, is it true? but) is it genuine? In Chatterton the *initiative* power was enormous—greater, probably, than in any writer of whom we have a record; and that he thought of this chiefly as an instrument for the production of certain effects is plain. The boldness and facility with which he handles questions of public policy and private character, for instance, are far ahead of any knowledge which experience and observation such as were possible to him could have bestowed even upon a lad of five times his ability. He must have been aware that he wrote without truthfulness—in other words, that he was only using a *knack*—upon topics which he but imperfectly knew. He writes of women with all the impudent freedom of a rake of five-and-thirty. His mannerisms false; and, as he died at eighteen, we cannot solve the question, Was he, by nature, anything more than a *literary* wonder, of great energy, but in other respects of average character? What he has left us is extraordinary; but, in spite of great excellence of form, great *literary* excellence, it does not impress one as the kind of work that pointed to a "seat of high collateral glory" with those who are something more than splendidly clever. To put the same thing differently—it is impossible to judge decisively a writer who died so young. But the mere literary talent stands exhibited in Chatterton in such unusual, such extreme, disproportion of excess over anything strictly individual, either in heart or mind, that the presumption was perhaps rather against his flowing into anything that could take high rank in what is best in kind in the order in which he is usually placed.

James Meetwell; or, Incidents, Errors, and Experiences in the Life of a Scottish Merchant. Two vols. Edinburgh: William P. Nimmo. The Carlylean theory that the life of anybody—which means a nobody—cannot fail to have some kind of interest and value, seems to have suggested the publication of "James Meetwell." The book is no novel; but, in very truth, just what it professes to be. In reading the introduction—a thing which no one should neglect—the reader may think that the story is of a bad stamp, because it professes to be a strict biography, a plain unvarnished tale. Novels which profess to be not novels usually consist of insufferable impertinence. They give false ideas of life, and shelter themselves under the pretence of what might have occurred. The best fiction must ever be a representation of life and manners under circumstances not too commonplace. A brilliant imagination is a splendid gift; but if the possessor of the imagination attempts to persuade the public that he is writing truth, the mildest epithet bestowed upon him will be that of charlatan. We should not advise any enthusiastic youth to believe too many pages of the "Arabian Nights," and no single page of "Le Peau de Chagrin"; but the general literature of fiction may be taken for—as Mr. Gladstone observed of a small opinion of his recently given—"what it is worth."

But fiction is not before us. Mr. Meetwell seems to tell his story of the last seventy years without embellishment. It is the trade life of Edinburgh, Leith, and Glasgow through that time, and is about as prosaic as such narratives usually are. A poor boy working himself up to the position of a rich man must have some little interest; but really Mr. Meetwell has given his story as little as possible. However, his chapters on the commercial crisis of 1825 give so intimate an account of individual struggles that the whole occasion comes vividly before the eye. The minuteness of detail becomes tiresome, but the effect is earnest and instructive. It is not new, but will bear being told again. That people should not do their trading on accommodation bills, nor furnish houses without money, are good precepts, and worthy of repetition. But volumes of trade against a glass of wine and the "disgusting habit" of smoking tobacco lose their effect—as the sea-serpent may lose the sight of his tail—through mere length. Mr. Meetwell seems to consider his literary days over; but, should he again feel inclined to put pen to paper, he would do well to recognise the artistic value of selection. Many personal matters are valuable only to the person himself; the general public are quite indifferent as to whatever a real Mr. Jones had for dinner; and the habits of his friends Smith, Brown, and Robinson are scarcely worthy of many miles of imperishable canvas. Again: since the days of Bunyan it has been considered unnecessary to indicate character by strict nomenclature, although, to a slight extent, it has frequently been done. And it is dangerous. Charles and Joseph Surface are well mentioned in their family name—Sir Oliver also; but in fifty other comedies the attempt baffles itself. Mr. Meetwell goes to the extent of speaking of his acquaintances as Mr. Softman, Mr. Wittyman, Mr. Despot, &c.; and when this is improved by "the Rev. W. Faithful" was all his name promised—a high, evangelical, and earnest man, it leads to the inference that anybody who is not "evangelical" must be unfaithful. The spirit and truth of these volumes may do good service to "young beginners"; but a little more of the brain and less of the L. S. D. would be more generally agreeable.

Runnymede and Lincoln Fair. A Story of the Great Charter. By J. G. EDGAR. London: S. O. Beeton.

This is the last, and we think the best, of those historical romances which the late Mr. J. G. Edgar wrote for boys. Few men of our day were so well fitted for the task he set himself—that of teaching history through the medium of interesting tales—as Mr. Edgar. He was thoroughly acquainted not only with the events, but the manners, the customs, and the kind of men who lived in the times of which he wrote. He himself, in a certain sense, lived mentally in those times, though so far removed from them in actual existence. He had studied the old chronicles till they had become a part of himself, and when he set to work to revivify, as it were, the actors on the stage of early English history, he was perfectly at home; and hence the excellence of the romances which he has left behind him. What a pity he was cut off before he had had time to perfect the work he had begun, which was to give us several more works of the same kind as that before us, in which should be portrayed the men and women who lived in the chivalrous days of our history, and which times, notwithstanding the seemingly frivolous pursuits often characteristic of them, were yet pregnant with momentous events having a vital bearing on the future of England! We have said that the present volume is one of a series. Some of the others may be mentioned. "The Boy Crusaders" dealt with the events evoked by the preaching of Peter the Hermit, but later in time than the days of that personage—those, in fact, of Saint Louis of France; the present work has to do with the times of John, the Great Charter, and the

struggle between Prince Louis and "Lackland's" son; "How I Won my Spurs" is laid in the time of Henry III. and the Barons' War; "Cressy and Poitiers" brings us down to Edward III and the Black Prince. Other works were to have followed; but the hand was not destined to execute what the head had planned. Let us be grateful for what we have, while we may justly regret what we have been denied. "Runnymede and Lincoln Fair," which was originally published in the *Boy's Own Magazine*, is profusely illustrated by engravings from the pencil of Robert Dudley, and by heraldic headings and tailpieces by W. Harry Rogers. Altogether a most admirable book for boys, and one which may also be read with profit by men.

The Poultry Book. By W. B. TEGETMEIER. Illustrated by Harrison Weir. London: Routledge and Sons.

At the present time, when rinderpest in cattle, smallpox in sheep, and trichina in pigs threaten seriously to diminish the sources from which the food of man can be drawn, the cultivation of poultry, both for their eggs and their flesh, is of great importance. And the matter becomes more important still when we remember that an increase of food from this source will in an especial manner be twice blessed—blessed to the producer and to the consumer. There is hardly a peasant in the land whose wife could not, by keeping poultry, add greatly to the scanty income of her family, and at the same time supply valuable articles of consumption in towns and cities. A work, therefore, which gives plain and practical directions as to the management of poultry is a great desideratum, and precisely such a work is that supplied by Mr. Tegetmeier, in which full information is given as to the breeding, management, and characteristics of the different varieties of profitable and ornamental poultry. The work will be equally useful to the mere poultry fancier and to those who engage in the operation of rearing and keeping fowls as a commercial speculation. Nor could anyone be found better qualified to deal with the subject than Mr. Tegetmeier, who has already written wisely and well upon it. Being editor of the poultry department of the *Field* newspaper, and author of "Profitable Poultry," "Poultry Considered as Agricultural Stock," &c., Mr. Tegetmeier has devoted much time and study to his theme, of which he is thoroughly master, and the fruits of years of thought, experiment, and observation are embodied in the work before us, which, therefore, will probably become a standard treatise on the subject. The illustrations, by Mr. Harrison Weir, are characterised by the care and knowledge of his subject which distinguish that artist in all his attempts. For the convenience of persons of limited means, the work is published in monthly parts, price 1s. each, three of which have already been issued.

Alexander von Humboldt; or, What May be Accomplished in a Lifetime. By F. A. SCHWARZENBERG. London: R. Hardwicke.

This short but well-written life of Humboldt does indeed show what great things may be accomplished in a lifetime of patient labour undertaken by a man of real genius and indomitable resolution. Alexander von Humboldt, who died the friend and the peer of emperors and kings and the venerated of the multitude, had to struggle out of the trammels of an old system of physical philosophy and to build up a new one; and the edifice which he has left is the most perfect of its kind in existence. The life of such a man, and the history of such a work, cannot fail to be interesting; and Mr. Schwarzenberg has succeeded well in his task of popularising in this country the life and labours of his great compatriot. The work is founded on Professor Klenke's "Denkmal," of which, however, it is little more than an epitome, but a well-executed epitome. It is an excellent book to put into the hand of a studious and aspiring youth, and ought to have a wide popularity. As his name imports, Mr. Schwarzenberg is a German; but he might have omitted the appeal for indulgence on that score, for he writes a very correct English style—a style, indeed, which requires no apology whatever. We heartily commend the book.

Monthly Volumes of Standard Authors. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

Messrs. Smith and Elder have recently added to their "Monthly Volumes of Standard Authors"—a series which has long since received a favourable welcome from the public—two stories by authors of acknowledged merit. These volumes are "Beyminstre," by the author of "Lena," and "Counterparts; or the Cross of Love," by the author of "Charles Auchester." Both works are pleasantly written and highly interesting. A better shilling's worth could scarcely be obtained, even in these days of cheap and good books.

MACMILLAN'S "GOLDEN TREASURY."

THE series of works published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co. under the general title of "The Golden Treasury" fully deserve the name. So superior a lot of books was perhaps never issued in one set before—superior in every sense of the word. The range of subjects is large—from fairy tales to high philosophy. The contents of each volume may well be described as the best of its kind; the editing, annotating, and prefacing have (with one or two deficiencies) been done with great care, by competent hands; the paper is fine and nicely toned; the printing is well—indeed, beautifully—executed; and the binding is at once elegant and substantial. The series embraces some dozen volumes, each volume (with one exception) being complete in itself, and the whole set constitutes a far from contemptible library. We propose to devote a short portion of our space to a notice of the several works in the series.

In "The Ballad Book" the editor, Mr. William Allingham, has given us a collection of what he truly describes as the "choicest British ballads." To have given a full collection of British ballads would have required not one, but at least three or four volumes as large as this. Consequently Mr. Allingham has confined himself to the genuine old British ballads, known to be authentic and of a certain degree of antiquity, eschewing all modern continuations, imitations, different versions, &c. He has, he says, carefully collected the various readings, and has selected those which appeared most genuine and natural. Most of our old ballad and song literature has come down to us through oral tradition, and many corruptions must have crept into it in passing through such a process; and yet

Mr. Allingham seems to have performed his difficult task with much care and success. The result, of course, of the rule he laid down for his guidance—that of excluding all modern elements—has deprived us of some things which have now become popular household words; as, for instance, Sir Walter Scott's fine continuations of "Thomas the Rhymer." But, had these been admitted, Mr. Allingham's book would not have been a collection of choice ancient ballads, which he designed it to be. It is curious to find that the scene of the greatest portion of these ballads, as of those of similar collections, is the north of England and Scotland; proving that in rough, rude, rugged "mountain lands," the poetic—and especially the lyric—faculty is more early and more fully developed than in regions more blessed by nature. The remark is further and strikingly illustrated by the literature of Scandinavia, the most rugged and the most ballad-rife portion of Europe. A neatly-written introductory preface has been contributed by the editor, which will be read with interest by all lovers of our fine old ballad literature. We may remark, however, that, in spite of all Mr. Allingham's care, he has not been able to exclude the words of one ballad from occasionally intruding into others. For instance, there are two ballads—"Childe Maurice" and "Gil Morice": Mr. Allingham does not give the latter; and yet it must have been running in his mind, for stanza 16 of "Childe Maurice" begins "Gil Morice he climbed on yonder tree." The work is not overloaded, as the manner of ballad editors is, with dry antiquarian discussions; but some excellent explanatory notes are added at the end, which add much to the interest of the volume.

Mr. Alexander Smith has been the editor and "prefacer"—if

the word may be allowed—of the "Poetical Works of Robert Burns," which occupy two volumes of the series. Mr. Smith is evidently appreciative of the genius of the wonderful ploughman; and, in telling the story of the poet's short but stirring life, while he does not deny his faults, he sets down naught in malice, and has evidently a disposition to extenuate wherever he fairly can. This is well. We dislike to hear the fallings of the gifted continually paraded and harped upon by men who, if we knew them half as well as Burns has let himself be known, would probably be as full of faults as he was, and with an infinitesimal amount of merit to redeem them. The good Burns did has lived after him; let the evil be interred with his bones. This edition of the Scottish bard should especially commend itself to Scotchmen, not one of whom should take a holiday ramble without one of the neat and convenient volumes in his pocket—unless, that is, something better be at hand, a thing, we suspect, few Scotchmen will admit to be possible.

The "Pilgrim's Progress" is unedited and unprefaced. Where was the necessity for either? Bunyan's great allegory is perfect in itself, as it is unique in itself; and all we care to remark about the present edition is that, though more elegant issues of the work have appeared, few so neat and convenient for perusal have ever been published.

No student of English poetry will deny that Mr. Palgrave, in his preface to the collection of the "Best Songs and Lyrical Poems in the English Language," has given as successful and complete a view of English poetry as might have been expected only from a far larger volume. Those who have not drunk deep of this spring will be likely to seek the well when they hear that its every drop is familiar to all who have studied and love the language. Mr. Palgrave divides his selection of the "Golden Treasury of the Best Songs and Lyrical Poems" into four divisions, or periods of history, each of which, from its distinctive character, might be called the Books of Shakespeare, Milton, Gray, and Wordsworth." Living poets are suffered to remain for a fifth part, which is to be postponed, it is hoped, as long as possible. The scholarly preface and the valuable notes should not be neglected by easy readers. They come from one who has his heart as well as his brain in the subject; and if a little affected, the pardonable fault does but come from the consciousness of the mastery of a great subject. It would be easy to find omissions. There is no mention of Sidney Godolphin, nor Randolph. But the editor had tied himself down to very strict conditions, and it would be ungenerous to urge trifles against a man who has "done his best" in a good cause.

The "Song Book," edited by Mr. Hullak, will be usefully employed in planting a love of poetry and melody in young people, whilst at the same time it may be considered as a miniature "History of British Music, by Examples," very varied, and necessarily not encumbered with accompaniment, the words, and the music, as far as the melody goes, being wisely considered sufficient for a moderate purpose. The volume is divided into four parts—English, Scotch, Welsh, and Irish—and it is easy to see the assistance to be derived from Mr. Chappell's collection, Burns and Thomson, Thomas Moore, and Mr. Thomas's Welsh melodies. However, far less known and accessible works than these have been consulted, and yet, strangely enough, the names of musician and author are constantly wanting. Mr. Hullak ventures somewhat modestly into musical history, but cracks lance after lance with Thomas Moore, a dispute into which we shall not follow him. The volume excludes living persons' productions, truly, but it is amusing to find how little is given from the many song-writers who have adorned recent times. A supplement gives four or five "nigger songs," as specimens from America; but without a word of "Woodman, spare that tree," or the "Old Savannah," or "By the lake where droops the willow."

Like other editors of the "Golden Treasury" series, Sir Roundell Palmer has arranged his "Book of Praise" with affectionate care. The four parts are devoted respectively to hymns on the subject of the Creed, from praise of the Trinity to the Resurrection and Eternal Life; the Lord's Prayer, Hymns for Natural and Sacred Seasons; and Songs of the Heart. The general reader of poetry will find here but little that is well known. It is almost entirely quite modern, and it is probable that people who are not too attentive to their church, whichever that may be, will not recognise more than a couple of dozen authors' names from the list at the end of the volume. Sir Roundell Palmer has for years been taking great pains with his collection, and now gives a volume of new beauties of English verse which may be heartily recommended to all "persuasions," especially to those persuasions which can at once admire and adore. The "Book of Praise" is a graceful storehouse of pure worship.

Mr. Mark Lemon's "Jest Book" has already received attention in these columns. It is a very handsome volume, like all the series, portly, and contains more than 1700 jests—or "goaks," as Artemus Ward would say—repartees, good stories, and anecdotes of all kinds. He must have a rare memory who could point to any ordinarily well-known jests which are omitted, and he must have been out of society who does not recognise some hundreds of old friends. To us it seems a remarkably creditable collection. Mr. Lemon's preface is amusing and to the purpose; but his editing has been simply nil. It is painful to hear of "when the ladies had took their departure." A joke concerning a *vacancy at the Gloucester's Head* is left without explanation, but it probably refers to the facetious Duke whose companion was Higgins. Mere initials, S. S., D. J., and G. A'B., are indecorous as authorities, in place of Sydney Smith, Douglas Jerrold, and Gilbert A'Beckett; and there need be no such reticence when those writers' names are constantly occurring in full. At pages 73 and 75 different versions of the same epigram from the Italian appear. One joke headed "Grafting" begins "very dry and pithy too was," &c., but it has no reference to the preceding; and another, headed "A Grave Jest," begins "This celebrated Quaker." Landor's well-known epigram on the four Georges is unacknowledged; and, apparently on the authority of Horace Walpole, George III. is described as the grandson of Queen Anne. These are but samples of the kind of carelessness which distinguishes this "golden" volume.

The series contains a few of the very best books for children and young people that ever were issued, and the few words we devote to them our readers will kindly take as spoken with emphasis.

First on the list of this class by the courtesy of literature, as well as in merit, comes "The Children's Garland from the Best Poets," edited by Mr. Coventry Patmore. This selection is beyond praise, speaking generally; and yet it has a fault or two. We think "The Ancient Mariner," for example, should have been left alone, rather than abbreviated for the purposes of the "Garland." But against a mistake or two of this kind we must set the very great merit that the editor has trusted in the innocence of the young, and has fearlessly printed some ballads which "nice people of nasty ideas" would have excluded. He has had the courage, too, to include a very few of the old nursery rhymes. Briefly, it is an excellent book.

Strong praise also must be given to "The Fairy Book," edited by the author of "John Halifax, Gentleman"; the "Sunday Book of Poetry," edited by Mrs. C. F. Alexander (who is well known as the author of an almost incredibly popular hymn-book for the young); and the "Book of Golden Deeds," edited by Miss Yonge ("Heir of Redclyffe"). Upon all these small criticisms might be made; but they are all so good that we should make it a point of conscience to forbear saying anything which could by possibility tend to make them unacceptable to any human being.

We wish well to this whole series; it does honour to the editors and the publishers, and we gladly observe that it is successful. The shortness of these notices must not be misconstrued; we have looked carefully at the whole of the volumes. They belong to a class of literature to which we have paid special attention, and we wish to be understood as speaking with authority as well as sincerity when we thus warmly and (for practical purposes) unreservedly praise them.

The "Republic" of Plato and Bacon's "Essays" are also included in the "Golden Treasury" series; but these we propose to reserve for separate notice.

be used, and it was quite possible to obtain with the improved instruments a rate of five or six words a minute, with a power of only a single cell. A gentleman remarked that there was a letter in the *Times*, signed by an engineer, and apparently a man of some note, but he could not recollect his name, who had declared that it was a mechanical impossibility to raise the sunken cable because of its great weight. He wished to know if the company had thought it worth while to answer that letter. Mr. Field remarked that, if the company were to answer all the letters addressed to them, they would soon have to employ the whole of their capital in the task. They had already given, that day, an answer. Captain Anderson said he had not answered all the letters he had received because he could not do so. One writer, a lady, proposed to raise the cable with a magnet. There were lots of people who wrote to say they would raise the cable, but they must have £10,000 for doing it; £10,000 seemed a favourite sum with such people. Mr. Field said that one gentleman called upon him and proposed to sink a hollow tube to the bottom of the sea, and then go down in it and look for the cable. He plagued him considerably, until one morning he (Mr. Field) told him that he had decided that the thing could be done, and he (the inventor) should have the appointment to go down and look for it. He had not seen him since. Captain Anderson said it was only fair to admit that many of the letters contained very sensible suggestions. The proceedings then concluded, with a vote of thanks to the speakers.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY, accompanied by Princess Helena and the Princess of Hohenlohe, visited the camp at Aldershot on Tuesday. The various troops were inspected, and a review took place. This is the first visit her Majesty has paid to the Aldershot encampment.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has become a member of the Cosmopolitan Club; likewise of White's. Of course, there was no ballot on such occasions.

THE FRENCH PRINCE IMPERIAL has recovered from his attack of measles.

THE HON. AUGUSTUS LIDDELL has been appointed treasurer, and the Hon. Eliot Yorke and Lieutenant Balfour Haig equerries, to Prince Alfred.

THE QUEEN has been pleased to institute a new decoration, to be styled the Albert Medal, to be awarded to persons who shall have endangered their own lives in endeavouring to save persons from shipwreck or other perils of the sea.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON has appointed Friday next, the 23rd inst., as a day of humiliation on account of the cattle plague.

THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL of the city of London have resolved to purchase Southwark Bridge.

BISHOP COLENSO was formally excommunicated by the Bishop of Cape-town on Jan. 5.

THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS is to be lighted with 3000 petroleum lamps.

MR. WORMS and PROFESSOR SIMONDS are at variance respecting the former's treatment of infected cattle; the Professor says it is a perfect failure, and Mr. Worms says it is not.

THE SHENANDOAH, which is now lying in the Birkenhead dock, has been ordered by the United States Consul to be sold.

THE CROATIAN DIET has agreed to send deputies to the Hungarian Diet. The deputies are to be furnished with explicit instructions as to their conduct.

COLONEL BRUCE, who signed the Bhootan Treaty, died on his voyage home from Calcutta. The gallant officer's decease was, we understand, attributable to the exposure he underwent during that disastrous campaign.

SIR S. M. PETO, Bart., M.P., is unable to attend to the discharge of his Parliamentary duties, or to any business in London, by an attack of illness of some severity, which detained him in the country.

MRS. STONEWALL JACKSON has written a letter stating that contributions on her behalf are given under a *false impression*, and that it is inconsistent with her ideas of rectitude and honour to receive them.

A VOLUME OF ESSAYS FOR THE TIMES, on ecclesiastical and social subjects, by Dr. Rigg, author of "Modern Anglican Theology," is in the press, and will shortly be published by Mr. Stock.

MR. HOME, the spiritualist, after trying the stage of the unknown world, the platform of the lecturer, and the studio of the artist, is now in training, preparatory to making an essay in sock and bunkin, to come off, it is said, in the next summer. The locality spoken of is the Princess's Theatre.

MR. ODO RUSSELL has succeeded in inducing the Roman Government to grant a site for a Protestant cemetery at Civita Vecchia. Efforts to obtain this concession have been made from time to time ever since 1821, but hitherto have always failed.

THE CONTRIBUTIONS to the Nonconformist Memorial Hall already reach the sum of £32,400. Mr. J. Remington Mills, M.P., heads the subscription with £10,000, and Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., comes second with £5,000.

A HAMPER OF WINE, sent from Chester for Beaumaris, was detained at Bangor because the bottles were packed in straw, which it was feared might be infected with the rinderpest!

GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN, it is stated, is studying military science in order to have a subordinate command in the Fenian army, which is shortly "to invade Ireland," and that he is preparing his addresses to his troops, which "will be modelled after the famous ones of Napoleon I."

THE PERUVIAN SHIPS *Independencia* and *Huescar* have proceeded direct to the Pacific for the purpose of taking part in the approaching struggle between Spain and the allied republics of Chile and Peru.

MESSRS. WARD, LOCK, AND TYLER have acquired the right to publish all Miss Braddon's novels, and a uniform library edition in volumes at six shillings each, and also a cheap edition at two shillings, will be at once issued. Both editions will have the advantage of the author's latest revision.

PRINCE NAPOLEON, on his way to Florence lately, went from Leghorn to pay a visit to the Island of Elba, and devoted a considerable time to an examination of the various objects connected with the Emperor Napoleon's residence there, which are now collected in the public museum.

MR. THOMAS CARLYLE, who is said to be in excellent health, will deliver his inaugural address as Rector of Edinburgh University in the course of next month. A bust of the new Rector, fresh from the studio of Mr. Wooller, will be exhibited at the next exhibition of the Royal Scottish Academy.

THE EMIGRATION FROM GERMANY TO NORTH AMERICA is daily assuming greater proportions. Up to the end of May 10,000 persons have already engaged to leave via Hamburg and Bremen. The emigrants are nearly all northerners and Protestants, whereas ten years ago the vast majority consisted of southerners, many of them Roman Catholics.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES KEAN, having completed their Transatlantic engagements, are about to return to England. They will leave New York on April 18, and are to appear at the Theatre Royal, Liverpool, on May 2, 3, and 4. From Liverpool they come to London, and will make their first appearance at the Princess's Theatre on Thursday, May 17, in "Henry VIII."

A WOMAN was charged on Wednesday at the Southwark Police Court with conveying into Horsemonger-lane Gaol a crowbar, with intent to pass the same to a convict under sentence of penal servitude. The magistrate said it was a very serious charge of felony, and committed the accused for trial.

AN AMERICAN EPITAPIL.—A surgeon in General Sherman's army copied the following inscription from a tombstone in a graveyard at Cheraw, South Carolina, while on a march through that State:—

My name—my country— What are they to thee? What, whether high or low, My pedigree? Perhaps I far surpass All other men?	Perchance I fell below them all! What then? Suffice it, stranger, Thou seest a tomb! Thou know'st its use; It hides—no matter whom.
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DEVONPORT ELECTION.—A Parliamentary return relative to serving Specker's warrants respecting the Devonport election petition on voters in Devonport Dockyard was issued on Saturday. The return is signed by Thos. Symonds, the Admiral Superintendent. It appears that on the 20th of February a telegram was received from the Admiralty directing that every facility should be given for serving the warrants on workmen in the yard in the case of the petition against the sitting members. A second telegram, signed "W. G. Romaine," was sent on the 21st to the same effect. On the same day application was made by the agents for the petition for facilitating the service of the warrants; and thereupon an order was issued by the Admiral Superintendent, directing the persons named to assemble the next morning, at ten o'clock, in the sale-room. On the 26th of February a note was received from Lord G. Paget (inclosing the notice of Sir John Pakington), asking for full information, as he did not know what it adverted. To this the Admiral Superintendent replied, stating what he had done, and added that the men were perfectly uninterested with their own officers, and that he had given no authority whatever for anything else but the serving of the warrants. The officers, moreover, stated that they did not attend, nor did they know of anyone who did attend at the place where the men were to be. The workmen were absent from their work under subpoena by a warrant from one hour to one hour and a half. On the 2nd of March a telegram was received ordering that the agent of the petitioner was not to be allowed to do more than serve the warrants, and was no account to be allowed to use any of the dockyard buildings for the examination of the workmen.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

BETTING on Tuesday morning was 6 to 4 that the Reform Bill would not pass; but Tuesday night's debate changed the opinion of the betting men considerably. I believe that the Government has no doubt that the bill will pass the Commons. The Government whips calculate that they will lose about ten men. This, if they all vote, will make twenty in a division; but, allowing for this loss, the Government will still have a majority of thirty. This will be hardly sufficient to induce the Lords to pass the bill, I think; but all will depend upon Lord Derby, and what he may resolve to do cannot be divined. The great battle-ground in Committee will be the £1 franchise in counties. The savings-bank clause, I think, will be withdrawn.

The Speaker still continues very unwell; he will not take the chair again before Easter.

I have received, and read carefully, a copy of Mr. M. F. Tupper's historical play entitled "Raleigh"; and this is my judgment of it. The rhythm is generally good; the diction is in purely nineteenth-century style; the incidents fairly, though not strikingly, arranged; and the characters, as a rule, pretty well sustained. The play will stand the test of reading—whatever may be its fate in acting—as well, or perhaps better, than many modern plays that I know. As a nineteenth-century play, remember. But there my commendation must stop. There is not a single line throughout the whole piece which can be dignified with the name of poetry; all is level—proportion; and from the purely nineteenth-century style of the language employed, we can never be induced to carry ourselves back, as we should do in such a piece, to the sixteenth century, to the days of Elizabeth and James I. Mr. Tupper, in his prefatory notice, derides the "three artificial unities of the 'Poetics,'" but insists upon unity, or consistency, of individual character. Now, surely a part of the "consistency of individual character" consists in making men and women talk in language appropriate to the time in which they are supposed to have lived; and yet Mr. Tupper employs a style, and even uses words and phrases, which did not come into use till long after the period with which he is dealing. Special merit is claimed for maintaining the "vernacular of King James to its minutest detail"; but, unluckily, that Royal personage is made to employ a curious higgledy-piggledy jumble of Scotch and English. For instance, "I man haes the lond; I man haes it for Carr. Lead her off." Why should his Majesty have jumped to his English in the last sentence? Why not stick to his native idiom, and say, "Tak' her awa'?" At all events, to be consistent with himself, he should have said *off*, and not *off*. There are other incongruities, or inconsistencies, if Mr. Tupper likes that word better. As this, for example:—In the first scene Raleigh is sent forth from home to take part in repelling the Armada, as though it were his first entry into the world. He receives his father's sword, his mother's Bible, a cloak—the famous cloak of the muddy pool adventure—from cousin Lilly, otherwise Elizabeth Throckmorton, and blessings from everybody; and yet it subsequently appears that he has already combated the Spaniards in the Low Countries with Sydney, and been engaged in expeditions to the Spanish Main with Drake, and Hawkins, and Frobisher. Surely a man who had already run such a career did not need the advice, and petting, and fuss, which Mr. Tupper makes attendant upon his departure from Hayes-Barton to fight Phillip II.'s Armada. Raleigh's servant, Gregory, is the funny man of the play, for funniment is attempted; but Gregory's humour is—well, not like the humour Shakespeare would have devised for such a character. As a whole, the play never rises to the height of the great argument the theme might have suggested. The two closing lines—

There is not such another head in England
Now left to be cut off,

uttered by a nameless man in the crowd at Raleigh's execution, are perhaps the best in the whole piece; and it is for that reason I have quoted them.

By-the-by, I have been made the victim of that disreputable practice by which book-puffers manage, by garbling critiques, to obtain commendations for trash, and to pervert a critic's meaning. Your readers will remember that I sent you, a few weeks ago, a paragraph in reference to a rhymed version of Mr. James Greenwood's "Night in a Workhouse." I spoke of the rhymester's performance in anything but flattering terms; and yet I find that, by picking out half a dozen words, and ignoring the context, I am made to appear as praising the rubbish. This is most abominable conduct; and all the worse, too, when perpetrated by a pretendedly-religious man, who writes would-be pious verse, under such titles as "Pray without ceasing," and so on. The wretched rhymester—let him never for a moment suppose himself a poet—should "pray without ceasing" for his own conversion to more honest courses. If the garbling system is carried on much longer, critics, in self-defence, will be compelled to ignore entirely all publications which they cannot fully and in all respects approve. Who will be the greatest losers then? Not good, honest authors and conscientious critics, you may be sure.

Local journalism is now an established institution in London. Every district of the metropolis has its organ or organs. Some of them, to be sure, are not very high class productions; but others are conducted in a very creditable way indeed. The latest issue of this description which I have seen emanates from the pleasant suburban village of Hornsey, and rejoices in the alliterative title of the *Hornsey Hornet*. It is, of course, designed to remedy all the ills that beset humanity in that locality; but has also the more practical object of benefiting the village newman, who, unhappily, is blind, having incurred that misfortune while pursuing his avocation of a compositor. The *Hornet* is smartly written, and is besides the neatest specimen of a London local print that I have seen. I wish it success.

Mr. Thomas Gray, of the Board of Trade, recently delivered, at the Society of Arts, a remarkable lecture upon the defects of Governmental supervision of our mercantile marine, which he holds to be, generally, worse than useless. Mr. Gray's lecture excited much interest, and has since obtained him the honour of an adverse critique in the *Saturday Review*, which, suggests that, holding such opinions as to the worthlessness of the system, he is in duty bound to resign his office. Mr. Gray will probably not see the matter in this light, or understand that the possession of brains unfit him for his position. Still, it is not usual that suggestions for reform and exposures of deficiencies come from official sources. One could wish, however, that such were the rule instead of the exception.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

By some accident, somewhere, the last number of *Temple Bar* has not reached me.

The *Shilling Magazine* was very late this time. It is an excellent number; by which I do not mean that everything in it is good, but that some of the articles have sufficient merit to put out of sight the badness of the others. The paper by Mr. Bonamy Price, entitled "What are Sovereigns and Bank Notes?" is far more interesting than half the stories now running in the magazines; I very warmly commend it to our readers. There are some very interesting letters from the late John Gibson, and a good memoir of Cosway, the miniature-painter. Mr. Sydney Whiting's story, "Psuedologia; An Episode in the Life of a Barrister," is good. What do you think of this for a situation?—Early in life, the mind of a naturally truthful girl receives a twist, or a wrench, for the nature of which I must refer to the story itself, and she becomes a regular teller of innocent, motiveless lies. It so happens that one of the lies she tells her husband is a denial that she had been away from home at a time when her husband had seen her away from home. He separates from her—and that is all I shall say. You must go the *Shilling Magazine* for the rest of it.

I promised to refer again to "The Night Wayfarer" in *The Argosy*. This "Fantasy" is signed "W. A.;" but without that

signature it would have been possible to fix the authorship, so many things are there which remind the reader of passages in Mr. Allingham's poems. My intention was to trace these out one by one; but I find it would occupy far too much space, and must be content with just calling attention to the facts. I am glad to see that so many intelligent critics are with me in finding Mr. Charles Reade's love-making in "Griffith Gaunt" so pleasant.

I also promised to refer again to *Macmillan*. Doctor Whewell's article on "Comte and Positivism" has a tone of good-humoured superiority about it which is very characteristic; and those who know what very hard blows have been dealt by Mr. Mill and Mr. Lewes (especially Mr. Lewes) in time past to the Master of Trinity, will appreciate, scarcely without surprise, the handsome manner in which he speaks of his old antagonists. On page 357, however, he shows that he does not understand the Positivist's rejection of final causes. If we refuse to say the eye was made for seeing, because we refuse to entertain any teleological conception, we cannot put, as Dr. Whewell does, the reverse case, and say the eye was not made for seeing—the hypothesis will not admit this; for though that proposition is a contradiction of the particular instance, it is not a contradiction of teleology—it is only reading it backwards. If final causes are to be rejected, we are, by the hypothesis, shut up from saying either that the eye was made for seeing or that it was not. To prevent misunderstanding, I may add that I am, in this question, on the side taken by Dr. Whewell, and against that taken by the Positivists. I also agree that an hypothesis which will not permit a dilemma is, *ipso facto*, absurd; but the absurdity in this case is not a part of the system of thought, it is the system. I must with regret break my promise about Mr. Simon's article, "Can We See Distance?" because to fulfil it would now occupy too much space; but I will take another opportunity of referring to the subject. Some of the readers of this column may remember that I called attention to Mr. Abbott's book (which is criticised by Mr. Simon) when it first appeared. The whole question requires restating, and if Mr. Bailey and Mr. Abbott have misunderstood Berkeley, it was because they naturally took him to mean something different from an elaborated truism.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Lent always has been, and, I suppose, always will be, a dull season for theatricals. I have no positive news to chronicle since last week. *King Lear* has been revived at DRURY LANE, and has been alternated with "The Merchant of Venice." "The Overland Route" has been reproduced at the HAYMARKET; and Mr. Jefferson's last nights are announced at the ADELPHI. Apropos, Mr. Jefferson and Mrs. Billington commence their starring tour as Rip and Vrow van Winkle at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, on the 26th. I wish every possible success to the "happy pair."

"Henry Dunbar" is to be withdrawn from the OLYMPIC playbills, and a new comedy is to take its place.

The Prince and Princess of Wales visited the ST. JAMES'S THEATRE last week, and saw "She Stoops to Conquer." It is an agreeable thing to contemplate the success of comedy at this theatre. I mean real comedy, and not long farces or bad compounds of melodrama and farce, or ghastly translations of Parisian life that have no reality in Paris or anywhere else.

The Prince of Wales has ordered of Messrs. Southwell, the famous photographers of Baker-street, an album containing photographic portraits of all the artistes of the Prince of Wales's Theatre in the characters they represent in the comedy of "Society." I have seen two of them—Mr. Clarke, as Mr. John Chodd, jun.; and Mr. Montgomery, as Dr. Olinthus O'Sullivan—and they are excellent.

EGYPTIAN HALL.

On Monday evening Mr. Arthur Sketchley gave his new entertainment for the first time. It is called "Mrs. Brown at Home and Abroad." It is now nearly three years since this gentleman appeared before the London public, and since then "Mrs. Brown" has become familiar as a household word. A good thing is always a good thing; and Mrs. Brown, as portrayed by the voice and pen of Mr. Arthur Sketchley, is always amusing. Indeed, the good lady's conversation and strictures on those things that come within the limited sphere of her observation are so false to reason and true to nature, that they are not only agreeable when rendered by Mr. Arthur Sketchley, but also when perused in the pages of *Fun*. Mrs. Gamp in the person of Mr. Robert Keeley was funny, and she was funnier still in the green-covered monthly numbers of "Martin Chuzzlewit"; and the same thing may be said of Mrs. Brown. Her remarks are so truly humorous that they would bear continual quotation. She is the type of a large class—the kind-hearted, narrow-minded matron of the very small shop-keeping class. Her mouth drops pearls of false perception and mispronunciation. "Ah," says the worthy creature, as she surveys Billingsgate, "they may well call it Billingsgate, for such language I never hear!" "A new-laid egg," she remarks, contemptuously, "no more a new-laid egg than I am!" "And there, sure enough, stood the clothes-basket, as empty as ever it was born!" Mrs. Brown's similes are admirable; witness her description of the servant-girl who "steps out for firewood, as she burns up as if it was forest," though only seven bundles for sixpence!"

But all this time I am neglecting the new entertainment. Mrs. Brown, in her latest edition of herself, travels up the Rhine, and relates her adventures by steam-boat and train from the Tower of London to Baden-Baden. Mrs. Brown is accompanied on her tour by her husband, the estimable Mr. Brown, who is one of those powerful arguers found in tavern parlours, vestries, and discussion clubs. Mrs. Brown, too, exchanges words and glances with new faces—Lady Graver and her daughters, and a French gentleman, who is as well acquainted with the Rhine as most Parisians are with everything in the world outside the barriers, and who appears to have read guide-books for the sole purpose of confusing himself and deceiving his friends. The panorama which accompanies Mrs. Brown, or which Mrs. Brown accompanies—I can hardly say which form of expression is correct, so completely are the panorama and Mrs. B. welded together—is excellently painted and is capitally managed. Some sprightly songs are introduced, and it is most probable that Mrs. Brown will take her departure from London Bridge-wharf for many evenings at eight, and for many Saturday afternoons at three precisely.

DEATH OF AN AFRICAN EXPLORER.—Intelligence has been received from Zanzibar of the death of Baron von der Decken, who was exploring in Eastern Africa. It appears that the traveller left Zanzibar on the 15th of June last, in his yacht, and made his way into the interior of Africa by ascending the River Dub, and on Sept. 10 he arrived at Berdera, a town of the Somali tribe. He was at first well received by the ruler of the country; but upon his announcing his intention to continue his exploration up the River Dub, the disposition of that chief towards him was entirely changed. Persisting, however, in his intention, the Baron von der Decken had the misfortune to lose his steamer at the cataracts which close the Dub about twenty kilometres above Berdera. On Oct. 1 his encampment was attacked by a horde of Somalis. An artist and a mechanic attached to the expedition were killed. The Baron himself, weakened by the effect of cholera, from which he had suffered in June, and surrounded by myriads of savages, for a time kept them off by the aid of his revolver, but upon his stooping to pick up some of his arms the crowd rushed upon him and dragged him to the river's bank, where he was slain by his assailants.

GERMAN HOSPITAL, DALSTON.—On Monday night the twenty-first anniversary dinner took place, at the London Tavern—the Earl of Dudley in the chair. The company numbered about 150. After the usual preliminary toasts, the noble chairman proposed the toast of the evening, and, in doing so, made a very effective appeal on behalf of the charity. It appeared from the statement put forward that the number of in-patients admitted during the year amounted to 920, of whom 698 were males, and 222 females. The out-patients attended to were 14,524. Since the opening of the hospital 19,115 in and out patients participated in the benefits of the charity. The receipts for the year amounted to £4516, and the expenditure to £4522. Besides this small deficiency, there remained a debt of £2000, occasioned by the recent addition to the building, which, it was hoped, would be wiped off by the results of the present anniversary dinner. It should be mentioned that, though principally an hospital for the Germans residing in London, its benefits are freely extended to persons of all nations who require its aid. The new addition to the hospital has increased the annual expenditure, and one ward remains closed for want of funds. The subscriptions amounted to £2620, being an increase of £700 on the receipts of last year.

Literature.

Poems. By THOMAS CHATTERTON. With a Memoir by Frederick Martin, Author of "The Life of John Clare." Illustrated. London: Charles Griffin and Co.

This is a very pretty book. The paper, the printing, and the steel engravings with which it is illustrated, are all of the best. Mr. Martin's little memoir, too, is informing, and puts a great deal into small compass; so that this edition of the poor boy's poems may be sincerely recommended.

We have had a great deal of discussion about Chatterton's character, and very different estimates have been formed of it. It seems to us that his notions of right and wrong were quite up to the standard of his times, and of the literary and political society in which he moved. His offer to supply Horace Walpole with imaginary anecdotes for an historical book about painters was wrong; but it is plain that he habitually thought of literature as a *craft—a métier*; and he probably had no idea that a work professing to be historical should contain only (what was believed to be) fact. This is not extraordinary. It is not every mind that draws, or that drew, the distinctions we draw in such matters. Early historians and biographers thought nothing of putting into the mouths of their characters any speeches they considered appropriate. If literature takes in the mind the shape of mere reproduction or imitation, the only question that occurs to the literary artist will be (not, is it true?) but is it genuine? In Chatterton the *imitative power* was enormous—greater, probably, than in any writer of whom we have a record; and that he thought of this chiefly as an instrument for the production of certain *effects* is plain. The boldness and facility with which he handles questions of public policy and private character, for instance, are far ahead of any knowledge which experience and observation such as were possible to him could have bestowed even upon a lad of five times his ability. He must have been aware that he wrote without truthfulness—in other words, that he was only using a knack—upon topics which he but imperfectly knew. He writes of women with all the impudent freedom of a rake of five-and-thirty. His manner rings false; and, as he died at eighteen, we cannot solve the question, Was he, by nature, anything more than a *literary wonder*, of great energy, but in other respects of average character? What he has left us is extraordinary; but, in spite of great excellence of form, great *literary* excellence, it does not impress one as the kind of work that pointed to a "seat of high collateral glory" with those who are something more than splendidly clever. To put the same thing differently—it is impossible to judge decisively a writer who died so young. But the mere literary talent stands exhibited in Chatterton in such unusual, such extreme, disproportion of excess over anything strictly individual, either in heart or mind, that the presumption was perhaps rather against his flowing into anything that could take high rank in what is best in kind in the order in which he is usually placed.

James Meetwell; or, Incidents, Errors, and Experiences in the Life of a Scottish Merchant. Two vols. Edinburgh: William P. Nimmo. The Carlylean theory that the life of anybody—which means a nobody—cannot fail to have some kind of interest and value, seems to have suggested the publication of "James Meetwell." The book is no novel; but, in very truth, just what it professes to be. In reading the introduction—a thing which no one should neglect—the reader may think that the story is of a bad stamp, because it professes to be a strict biography, a plain unvarnished tale. Novels which profess to be not novels usually consist of insufferable impertinence. They give false ideas of life, and shelter themselves under the pretence of what might have occurred. The best fiction must ever be a representation of life and manners under circumstances not too commonplace. A brilliant imagination is a splendid gift; but if the possessor of the imagination attempts to persuade the public that he is writing truth, the mildest epithet bestowed upon him will be that of charlatan. We should not advise any enthusiastic youth to believe too many pages of the "Arabian Nights," and no single page of "Le Peau de Chagrin"; but the general literature of fiction may be taken for—as Mr. Gladstone observed of a small opinion of his recently given—"what it is worth."

But fiction is not before us. Mr. Meetwell seems to tell his story of the last seventy years without embellishment. It is the trade life of Edinburgh, Leith, and Glasgow through that time, and is about as prosaic as such narratives usually are. A poor boy working himself up to the position of a rich man must have some little interest; but really Mr. Meetwell has given his story as little as possible. However, his chapters on the commercial crisis of 1825 give so intimate an account of individual struggles that the whole occasion comes vividly before the eye. The minuteness of detail becomes tiresome, but the effect is earnest and instructive. It is not new, but will bear being told again. That people should not do their trading on accommodation bills, nor furnish houses without money, are good precepts, and worthy of repetition. But volumes of tirade against a glass of wine and the "disgusting habit" of smoking tobacco lose their effect—as the sea-serpent may lose the sight of his tail—through mere length. Mr. Meetwell seems to consider his literary days over; but, should he again feel inclined to put pen to paper, he would do well to recognise the artistic value of selection. Many personal matters are valuable only to the person himself; the general public are quite indifferent as to whatever a real Mr. Jonash had for dinner; and the habits of his friends Smith, Brown, and Robinson are scarcely worthy of many miles of imperishable canvas. Again: since the days of Bunyan it has been considered unnecessary to indicate character by strict nomenclature, although, to a slight extent, it has frequently been done. And it is dangerous. Charles and Joseph Surface are well mentioned in their family name—Sir Oliver also; but in fifty other comedies the attempt baffles itself. Mr. Meetwell goes to the extent of speaking of his acquaintances as Mr. Softman, Mr. Wittyman, Mr. Despot, &c.; and when this is improved by "the Rev. W. Faithful" was all his name promised—a high, evangelical, and earnest man, it leads to the inference that anybody who is not "evangelical" must be unfaithful. The spirit and truth of these volumes may do good service to "young beginners"; but a little more of the brain and less of the L. S. D. would be more generally agreeable.

Runnymede and Lincoln Fair. A Story of the Great Charter. By J. G. EDGAR. London: S. O. Beeton.

This is the last, and we think the best, of those historical romances which the late Mr. J. G. Edgar wrote for boys. Few men of our day were so well fitted for the task he set himself—that of teaching history through the medium of interesting tales—as Mr. Edgar. He was thoroughly acquainted not only with the events, but the manners, the customs, and the kind of men who lived in the times of which he wrote. He himself, in a certain sense, lived mentally in those times, though so far removed from them in actual existence. He had studied the old chronicles till they had become a part of himself, and when he set to work to revivify, as it were, the actors on the stage of early English history, he was perfectly at home; and hence the excellence of the romances which he has left behind him. What a pity he was cut off before he had had time to perfect the work he had begun, which was to give us several more works of the same kind as that before us, in which should be portrayed the men and women who lived in the chivalrous days of our history, and which times, notwithstanding the seemingly frivolous pursuits often characteristic of them, were yet pregnant with momentous events having a vital bearing on the future of England! We have said that the present volume is one of a series. Some of the others may be mentioned. "The Boy Crusaders" deal with the events evoked by the preaching of Peter the Hermit, but later in time than the days of that personage—those, in fact, of Saint Louis of France; the present work has to do with the times of John, the Great Charter, and the

struggle between Prince Louis and "Lackland's" son; "How I Won my Spur" is laid in the time of Henry III. and the Barons' War; "Cressy and Poictiers" brings us down to Edward III and the Black Prince. Other works were to have followed; but the hand was not destined to execute what the head had planned. Let us be grateful for what we have, while we may justly regret what we have been denied. "Runnymede and Lincoln Fair," which was originally published in the *Boy's Own Magazine*, is profusely illustrated by engravings from the pencil of Robert Dudley, and by heraldic headings and tailpieces by W. Harry Rogers. Altogether a most admirable book for boys, and one which may also be read with profit by men.

The Poultry Book. By W. B. TEGETMEIER. Illustrated by Harrison Weir. London: Routledge and Sons.

At the present time, when rinderpest in cattle, smallpox in sheep, and trichinae in pigs threaten seriously to diminish the sources from which the food of man can be drawn, the cultivation of poultry, both for their eggs and their flesh, is of great importance. And the matter becomes more important still when we remember that an increase of food from this source will in an especial manner be twice blessed—blessed to the producer and to the consumer. There is hardly a peasant in the land whose wife could not, by keeping poultry, add greatly to the scanty income of her family, and at the same time supply valuable articles of consumption in towns and cities. A work, therefore, which gives plain and practical directions as to the management of poultry is a great desideratum, and precisely such a work is that supplied by Mr. Tegetmeier, in which full information is given as to the breeding, management, and characteristics of the different varieties of profitable and ornamental poultry. The work will be equally useful to the mere poultry fancier and to those who engage in the operation of rearing and keeping fowls as a commercial speculation. Nor could anyone be found better qualified to deal with the subject than Mr. Tegetmeier, who has already written wisely and well upon it. Being editor of the poultry department of the *Field* newspaper, and author of "Profitable Poultry," "Poultry Considered as Agricultural Stock," &c., Mr. Tegetmeier has devoted much time and study to his theme, of which he is thoroughly master, and the fruits of years of thought, experiment, and observation are embodied in the work before us, which, therefore, will probably become a standard treatise on the subject. The illustrations, by Mr. Harrison Weir, are characterised by the care and knowledge of his subject which distinguish that artist in all he attempts. For the convenience of persons of limited means, the work is published in monthly parts, price 1s. each, three of which have already been issued.

Alexander von Humboldt; or, What May be Accomplished in a Lifetime. By F. A. SCHWARZENBERG. London: R. Hardwicke.

This short but well-written life of Humboldt does indeed show what great things may be accomplished in a lifetime of patient labour undertaken by a man of real genius and indomitable resolution. Alexander von Humboldt, who died the friend and the peer of emperors and kings and the venerated of the multitude, had to struggle out of the trammels of an old system of physical philosophy and to build up a new one; and the edifice which he has left is the most perfect of its kind in existence. The life of such a man, and the history of such a work, cannot fail to be interesting; and Mr. Schwarzenberg has succeeded well in his task of popularising in this country the life and labours of his great compatriot. The work is founded on Professor Klenke's "Denkmal," of which, however, it is little more than an epitome, but a well-executed epitome. It is an excellent book to put into the hand of a studious and aspiring youth, and ought to have a wide popularity. As his name imports, Mr. Schwarzenberg is a German; but he might have omitted the appeal for indulgence on that score, for he writes a very correct English style—a style, indeed, which requires no apology whatever. We heartily commend the book.

Monthly Volumes of Standard Authors. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

Messrs. Smith and Elder have recently added to their "Monthly Volumes of Standard Authors"—a series which has long since received a favourable welcome from the public—two stories by authors of acknowledged merit. These volumes are "Beyminster," by the author of "Lens," and "Counterparts; or the Cross of Love," by the author of "Charles Auchester." Both works are pleasantly written and highly interesting. A better shilling's worth could scarcely be obtained, even in these days of cheap and good books.

MACMILLAN'S "GOLDEN TREASURY."

THE series of works published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co. under the general title of "The Golden Treasury" fully deserve the name. So superior a lot of books was perhaps never issued in one set before—superior in every sense of the word. The range of subjects is large—from fairy tales to high philosophy. The contents of each volume may well be described as the best of its kind; the editing, annotating, and prefacing have (with one or two deficiencies) been done with great care, by competent hands; the paper is fine and nicely toned; the printing is well—indeed, beautifully—executed; and the binding is at once elegant and substantial. The series embraces some dozen volumes, each volume (with one exception) being complete in itself, and the whole set constitutes a far from contemptible library. We propose to devote a short portion of our space to a notice of the several works in the series.

In "The Ballad Book" the editor, Mr. William Allingham, has given us a collection of what he truly describes as the "choicest British ballads." To have given a full collection of British ballads would have required not one, but at least three or four volumes as large as this. Consequently Mr. Allingham has confined himself to the genuine old British ballads, known to be authentic and of a certain degree of antiquity, eschewing all modern continuations, imitations, different versions, &c. He has, he says, carefully collated the various readings, and has selected those which appeared most genuine and natural. Most of our old ballad and song literature has come down to us through oral tradition, and many corruptions must have crept into it in passing through such a process; and yet Mr. Allingham seems to have performed his difficult task with much care and success. The result, of course, of the rule he laid down for his guidance—that of excluding all modern elements—has deprived us of some things which have now become popular household words; as, for instance, Sir Walter Scott's fine continuations of "Thomas the Rhymer." But, had these been admitted, Mr. Allingham's book would not have been a collection of choice ancient ballads, which he designed it to be. It is curious to find that the scene of the greatest portion of these ballads, as of those of similar collections, is the north of England and Scotland; proving that in rough, rude, rugged "mountain lands," the poetic—and especially the lyric—faculty is more early and more fully developed than in regions more blessed by nature. The remark is further and strikingly illustrated by the literature of Scandinavia, the most rugged and the most ballad-rife portion of Europe. A neatly-written introductory preface has been contributed by the editor, which will be read with interest by all lovers of our fine old ballad literature. We may remark, however, that, in spite of all Mr. Allingham's care, he has not been able to exclude the words of one ballad from occasionally intruding into others. For instance, there are two ballads—"Childe Maurice" and "Gil Morice;" Mr. Allingham does not give the latter; and yet it must have been running in his mind, for stanza 16 of "Childe Maurice" begins "Gil Morice he climbed on yonder tree." The work is not overloaded, as the manner of ballad editors is, with dry antiquarian discussions; but some excellent explanatory notes are added at the end, which add much to the interest of the volume.

Mr. Alexander Smith has been the editor and "prefacer"—if

the word may be allowed—of the "Poetical Works of Robert Burns," which occupy two volumes of the series. Mr. Smith is evidently appreciative of the genius of the wonderful ploughman; and, in telling the story of the poet's short but stirring life, while he does not deny his faults, he sets down naught in malice, and has evidently a disposition to extenuate wherever he fairly can. This is well. We dislike to hear the fallings of the gifted continually paraded and harped upon by men who, if we knew them half as well as Burns has let himself be known, would probably be as full of faults as he was, and with but an infinitesimal amount of merit to redeem them. The good Burns did have lived after him; let the evil be interred with his bones. This edition of the Scottish bard should especially commend itself to Scotchmen, not one of whom should take a holiday ramble without one of the neat and convenient volumes in his pocket—unless, that is, something better be at hand, a thing, we suspect, few Scotchmen will admit to be possible.

The "Pilgrim's Progress" is unedited and unprefaced. Where was the necessity for either? Bunyan's great allegory is perfect in itself, as it is unique in itself; and all we care to remark about the present edition is that, though more elegant issues of the work have appeared, few so neat and convenient for perusal have ever been published.

No student of English poetry will deny that Mr. Palgrave, in his preface to the collection of the "Best Songs and Lyrical Poems in the English Language," has given as successful and complete a view of English poetry as might have been expected only from a far larger volume. Those who have not drunk deep of this spring will be likely to seek the well when they hear that its every drop is familiar to all who have studied and love the language. Mr. Palgrave divides his selection of the "Golden Treasury of the Best Songs and Lyrical Poems" into four divisions, or periods of history, each of which, from its distinctive character, might be called the Books of Shakespeare, Milton, Gray, and Wordsworth. Living poets are suffered to remain for a fifth part, which is to be postponed, it is hoped, as long as possible. The scholarly preface and the valuable notes should not be neglected by easy readers. They come from one who has his heart as well as his brain in the subject; and if a little affected, the pardonable fault does but come from the consciousness of the mastery of a great subject. It would be easy to find omissions. There is no mention of Sidney Godolphin, nor Randolph. But the editor had tied himself down to very strict conditions, and it would be ungenerous to urge trifles against a man who has "done his best" in a good cause.

The "Song Book," edited by Mr. Hullak, will be usefully employed in planting a love of poetry and melody in young people, whilst at the same time it may be considered as a miniature "History of British Music, by Examples," very varied, and necessarily not encumbered with accompaniment, the words, and the music, as far as the melody goes, being wisely considered sufficient for a moderate purpose. The volume is divided into four parts—English, Scotch, Welsh, and Irish—and it is easy to see the assistance to be derived from Mr. Chappell's collection, Burns and Thomson, Thomas Moore, and Mr. Thomas's Welsh melodies. However, far less known and accessible works than these have been consulted, and yet, strangely enough, the names of musician and author are constantly wanting. Mr. Hullak ventures somewhat modestly into musical history, but cracks lance after lance with Thomas Moore, a dispute into which we shall not follow him. The volume excludes living persons' productions, truly, but it is amusing to find how little is given from the many song-writers who have adorned recent times. A supplement gives four or five "nigger songs," as specimens from America; but without a word of "Woodman, spare that tree," or the "Old Savannah," or "By the lake where drops the willow."

Like other editors of the "Golden Treasury" series, Sir Roundell Palmer has arranged his "Book of Praise" with affectionate care. The four parts are devoted respectively to hymns on the subject of the Creed, from praise of the Trinity to the Resurrection and Eternal Life; the Lord's Prayer, Hymns for Natural and Sacred Seasons; and Songs of the Heart. The general reader of poetry will find here but little that is well known. It is almost entirely quite modern, and it is probable that people who are not too attentive to their church, whichever that may be, will not recognise more than a couple of dozen authors' names from the list at the end of the volume. Sir Roundell Palmer has for years been taking great pains with his collection, and now gives a volume of new beauties of English verse which may be heartily recommended to all "persuasions," especially to those persuasions which can at once admire and adore. The "Book of Praise" is a graceful storehouse of pure worship.

Mr. Mark Lemon's "Jest Book" has already received attention in these columns. It is a very handsome volume, like all the series, portly, and contains more than 1700 jests—or "goats," as Artemus Ward would say—repartees, good stories, and anecdotes of all kinds. He must have a rare memory who could point to any ordinarily well-known jests which are omitted, and he must have been out of society who does not recognise some hundreds of old friends. To us it seems a remarkably creditable collection. Mr. Lemon's preface is amusing and to the purpose; but his editing has been simp y ail. It is painful to hear of "when the ladies had took their departure." A joke concerning a *vacancy at the Gloucester's Head* is left without explanation, but it probably refers to the facetious Duke whose companion was Higgins. Mere initials, S. S., D. J., and G. A.B., are indecorous as authorities, in place of Sydney Smith, Douglas Jerrold, and Gilbert A'Beckett; and there need be no such reticence when those writers' names are constantly occurring in full. At pages 73 and 75 different versions of the same epigram from the Italian appear. One joke headed "Grafting" begins "very dry and pithy too was," &c., but it has no reference to the preceding; and another, headed "A Grave Jest," begins "This celebrated Quaker." Landor's well-known epigram on the four Georges is unacknowledged; and, apparently on the authority of Horace Walpole, George III. is described as the grandson of Queen Anne. These are but samples of the kind of carelessness which distinguishes this "golden" volume.

The series contains a few of the very best books for children and young people that ever were issued, and the few words we devote to them our readers will kindly take as spoken with emphasis.

First on the list of this class by the courtesy of literature, as well as in merit, comes "The Children's Garland from the Best Poets," edited by Mr. Coventry Patmore. This selection is beyond praise, speaking generally; and yet it has a fault or two. We think "The Ancient Mariner," for example, should have been left alone, rather than abbreviated for the purposes of the "Garland." But against a mistake or two of this kind we must set the very great merit that the editor has trusted in the innocence of the young, and has fearlessly printed some ballads which "nice people of nasty ideas" would have excluded. He has had the courage, too, to include a very few of the old nursery rhymes. Briefly, it is an excellent book.

Strong praise also must be given to "The Fairy Book," edited by the author of "John Halifax, Gentleman"; the "Sunday Book of Poetry," edited by Mrs. C. F. Alexander (who is well known as the author of an almost incredibly popular hymn-book for the young); and the "Book of Golden Deeds," edited by Miss Yonge ("Heir of Redclyffe"). Upon all these small criticisms might be made; but they are all so good that we should make it a point of conscience to forbear saying anything which could by possibility tend to make them unacceptable to any human being.

We wish well to this whole series; it does honour to the editors and the publishers, and we gladly observe that it is successful. The shortness of these notices must not be misconstrued; we have looked carefully at the whole of the volumes. They belong to a class of literature to which we have paid special attention, and we wish to be understood as speaking with authority as well as sincerity when we thus warmly and (for practical purposes) unreservedly praise them.

The "Republic" of Plato and Bacon's "Essays" are also included in the "Golden Treasury" series; but these we propose to reserve for separate notice.

EGYPTIAN ARTILLERY.

In some account which we gave in a previous Number of a review of Egyptian troops, mention was made of the remarkable way in which the ammunition are transported in the same manner so that a marching column can very soon supply the means for constructing a regular battery.

The Sudan, for which these preparations are made, is also called Nigritia,

and is, in fact, the native country of the negro race, occupying a portion of Central Africa, south of the Sahara, and reaching from Abyssinia to the Atlantic.

It comprehends the large closed basin of Lake Tchad, the basin

of Lake Fite, and some smaller lakes, and lies partly also in the basin of the Tchadda and of head-feeders of the Zaire.

It was found by the expeditions under Drs. Baith, Overweg, and Vogel to consist generally of level, rich

grassy plains, traversed by many fine rivers, and densely populated by natives

or tribes considerably advanced in civilization, but constantly at war with each other.

Feeders of the Nile and Zaire have their origin on its borders.

The principal kingdoms are those of Bourbon, Begharmi, Housse, Kanan,

and the Felatash country.

that skilful camel-drivers are required. The gun carriages, the shells, and the ammunition are transported in the same manner so that a marching column can very soon supply the means for constructing a regular battery.

The Sudan, for which these preparations are made, is also called Nigritia, and is, in fact, the native country of the negro race, occupying a portion of Central Africa, south of the Sahara, and reaching from Abyssinia to the Atlantic. It comprehends the large closed basin of Lake Tchad, the basin of Lake Fite, and some smaller lakes, and lies partly also in the basin of the Tchadda and of head-feeders of the Zaire. It was found by the expeditions under Drs. Baith, Overweg, and Vogel to consist generally of level, rich grassy plains, traversed by many fine rivers, and densely populated by natives or tribes considerably advanced in civilization, but constantly at war with each other. Feeders of the Nile and Zaire have their origin on its borders. The principal kingdoms are those of Bourbon, Begharmi, Housse, Kanan, and the Felatash country.

THE ERUPTION AT SANTORINO. In our last week's Number we published an account of the singular phenomena which have recently occurred at the Island of Santorino, off the Greek coast, and we now publish an Engraving showing the sinking of one island and the upheaving of another, from the action of the volcanic influences at work. Our readers will remember that her Majesty's ship Surprise was for a time anchored close to the scene of these strange occurrences. She is shown in the Engraving.

We now possess accurate accounts of the volcanic phenomena in the Bay of Santorino. Mr. Brasine, who visited the spot in her Majesty's ship Phœbe, saw the second volcanic island rise out of the sea like a fountain of lava, and as it rose high above the surface of the water fragments of rock fell from its sides, when they cooled and cracked at angles which left the masses without support. The first island of lava has now connected itself at both its ends with the island of Nea Kameni, and the inclosed space forms a crater like the Solitaria, and is called the Volcano, being

relics of the old volcano.

The Sondan, for which these preparations are made, is also called Nigritia, and is, in fact, the native country of the negro race, occupying a portion of Central Africa, south of the Sahara, and reaching from Abyssinia to the Atlantic. It comprehends the large closed basin of Lake Tchad, the basin of Lake Fite, and some smaller lakes, and lies partly also in the basin of the Tchadda and of head-feeders of the Zaire. It was found by the expeditions under Drs. Baith, Overweg, and Vogel to consist generally of level, rich grassy plains, traversed by many fine rivers, and densely populated by natives or tribes considerably advanced in civilization, but constantly at war with each other. Feeders of the Nile and Zaire have their origin on its borders. The principal kingdoms are those of Bourbon, Begharmi, Housse, Kanan, and the Felatash country.

Schmidt, an able observer, and the other member of the scientific commission sent by the Greek Government, have transmitted regular and detailed reports of the various phenomena that have occurred.

On the 20th of February, while the members of the commission were at the old crater of Nea Kameni with their instruments, making observations on the volcano below, a fearful explosion arrested their attention, and when they advanced to see the effect, a terrific eruption of flames, ashes, and red-hot stones burst from the volcano. They had just time to spring for shelter under the overhanging lava of the old crater, but not until they had received a few burns on their skin and a few holes in their clothes. The fury of the eruption lasted only a few minutes, and when the wind had cleared away the smoke and ashes they hastened to re-embark in the schooner at their disposal. The schooner, though moored between Nea and Mikro Kameni, at a much greater distance, was in considerable danger. The deck was set on fire in several places by the red-hot stones, and the men engaged



EGYPTIAN ARTILLERY ON THE MARCH TO SOUDAN.

to enable those to escape who desire to quit the island. The danger, if not really great, is increased by its uncertainty. The force that casts up islands of lava from the depths of the sea may topple down the town of Thera from the summit of the precipice where it stands, 1000 feet above the level of the sea, into the gulf below.

On the 22nd a curious phenomenon, which has generally accompanied the eruption, displayed itself with singular majesty. A dense column, which had its form as clearly defined as if it had been a mass of dark purple basalt, rose slowly out of the volcano into the air. It was about 600 ft. in diameter, and ascended to a height of 4000 ft. It appeared as if a central column of fire glowed through a dense covering of ashes mingled with smoke. For some time it preserved its columnar structure, without yielding to the wind, but as the heavy matter fell the smoke began gradually to disperse. It is interesting to compare this phenomenon with the description which Pliny gives (Epist. vi., xvi.) of the cloud that issued from Veenius in the form of an immense pine-tree—*longissimo velut trunco data in altum*—when Pompeii was destroyed and his uncle perished.

The inhabitants of Thera are greatly alarmed, and ships have been sent

again the influence she lost during the Crimean War by the revolution in the principality.

Of course the great seat of the present excitement is Bucharest, of which we heard so much during the late Russian War, and of which we publish an Engraving. The principality of Wallachia, of which this is the capital, is that part of Turkey in Europe bounded N. and N.W. by the Carpathians, separating it from Transylvania and the Banat of Hungary; and W., S., and E., by the Danube, which divides it from Servia and Bulgaria, a smaller stream, the Bistritz, separating it from Moldavia on the N.E. A strange race are those boyards, or Wallachian nobles, who accustomed to elect their own hospodar, cannot long endure the nominee even of a congress of European Powers. Whether or not they have really descended from the ancient Dacians, they seem to have preserved few of the virtues generally accorded to the tribes of antiquity; for they are either from long misgovernment or some other cause, about as lazy, besotted, and violently-revengeful a people as can be met with in any pseudo-civilised community.

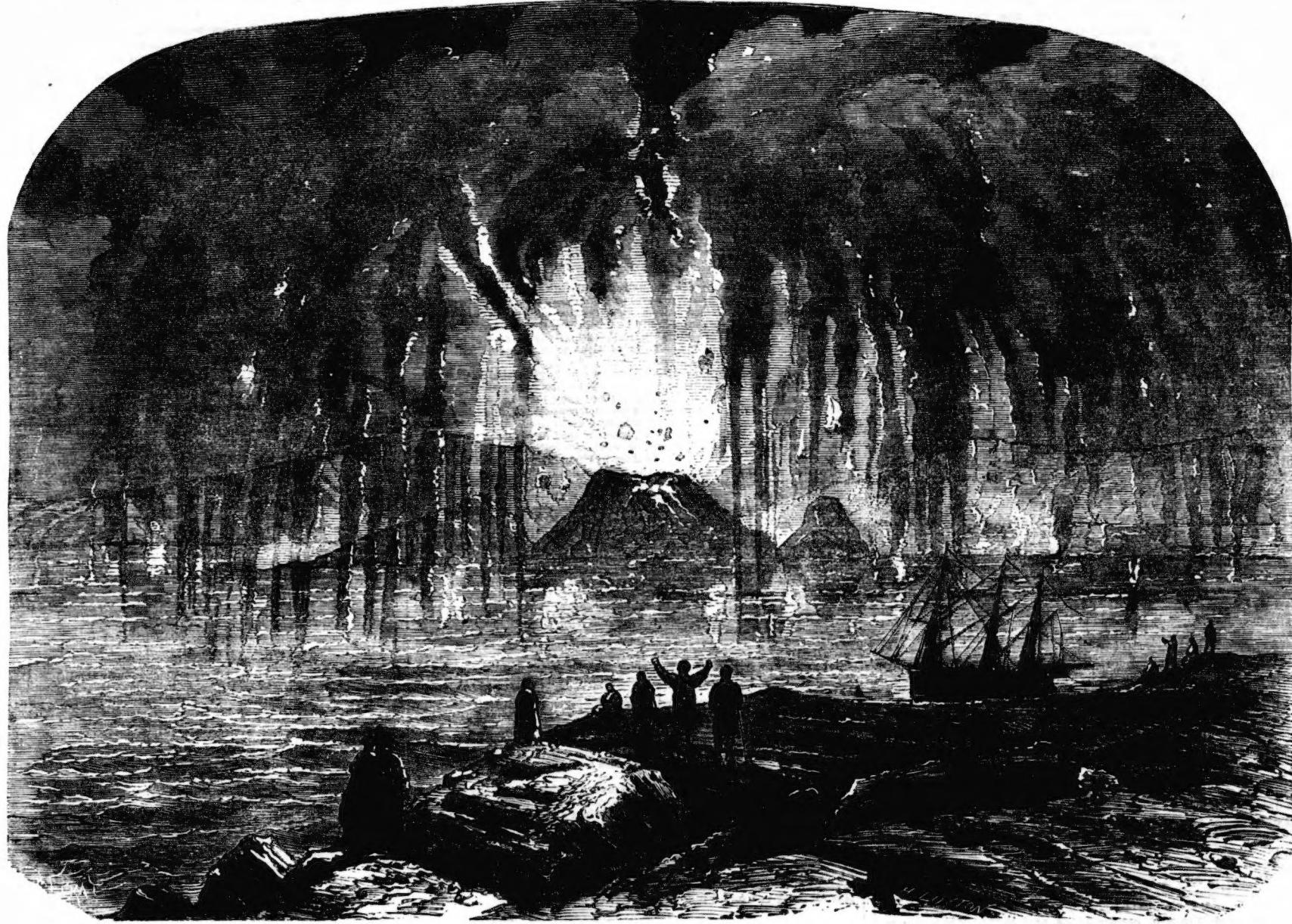
Bucharest, however, is a remarkable city, if only from the fact that it is situated in a great plain, in which there is neither tree nor stone, on the lofty bank of the Dumbovita, which is crossed by a bridge. The place is irregularly paved, and many of the dwellings are little more than mud cabins, while others are boarded over or laid with logs that half float in the

should know. Indeed, the late King Leopold when asked two years ago, as to the reception he would give to a similar overture, replied that his two sons ought not to be separated, but remain side by side to lend one another mutual assistance.

As to the candidature of the Duke of Leuchtenberg, besides that it would not be accepted without reserve by the Western Powers, it is said that it would meet with insurmountable obstacles on the part of the Duke himself, who has long manifested his firm intention of never accepting the throne of the principality.

However this may be, it seems that the Rumanian population intend leaving the matter entirely to the Powers who are pledged to the care of providing for the vacancy caused by the forced abdication of Prince Conza.

The circumstances that the Russian Government made arrangements for the conveyance of troops from eight to fourteen days before the events in Bucharest will be remembered by the European Powers with great distrust. The hand of Russia will be suspected in the fall of Couza; and, in fact, there are other signs enough that Russian intrigues and Russian policy have played a great part here. Here begins the European side of the question; and, friendly as the Powers have been of late, the political horizon may become clouded if it should appear that Russia wishes to obtain



THE LATE VOLCANIC PHENOMENA AT SANTORINO.

liquid slush of the by-ways where they are built. Mingled with these, however, and presenting a strange appearance by contrast, are a number of handsome houses, hotels, and churches—a state of things which somehow accords with the wretched, ragged appearance of the lower part of the population, as compared with the flaunting, gaudy dresses of the "swell" part of the community as they walk upon the public promenade to air their finery.

Bucharest contains a palace, late the residence of the dethroned Prince, a large and rather picturesque old building; and, with the

metropolitan church, situated in the great square in the very centre of the town. There are above a hundred other churches, each having from three to six steeples, or towers; a bazaar or two; several hospitals; twenty monasteries and convents; and a good many khans, or Oriental inns. From the centre of the town rises a tower 60 ft. in height, called the fire tower, from which a complete view of the city is commanded.

The churches are often the centres of distinct quarters, separated by plots of open ground; so that, for its population, Bucharest presents a very large superficial extent; but the centre of the town,

which is the seat of Government, is a congress of narrow streets and lanes, very foul and ill-smelling. Amongst the upper classes French is generally spoken; but the vulgar tongue is Roumain, a sort of degenerate composite language of mixed Latin and Slavonian. Some of the public promenades are very fine, and the town is divided by the river. Our remarks with respect to the Wallachian character scarcely apply to the upper classes of the modern Bucharest, amongst whom the traveller who has an introduction to "society" may spend a very agreeable time and be the subject of a pleasant and hospitable courtesy.



THE CITY OF BUCHAREST, THE CAPITAL OF THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

MR. GYE commences operations on the 3rd of April; Mr. Mapleson on the 7th. Probably the first thing everyone will wish to know, in connection with the programme of Her Majesty's Theatre, is, what has been done to strengthen the department of tenors, left terribly weak by the loss of poor Ginglini. In the first place, Signor Mongini—about the best dramatic tenor who could be found—has been engaged. Next among Mr. Mapleson's new tenors Mr. Hohler may be mentioned. Mr. Hohler had long been known in London as a clever amateur singer, when, in the spring of last year, he appeared at the theatre of La Scala, and, according to the accounts of the Milanese journals, with great success. Of Signor Arvini, the third new tenor, we know nothing. Signor Tasca, the fourth and last, sang once, last season, at the Royal Italian Opera, on which occasion the ungrateful part of Pollio, in "Norma," was assigned to him. He was aptly described at the time as "an Italian Wachtel." Nevertheless, he has quite a high reputation in Italy, and it is quite possible that in some more important and interesting part he may really succeed in distinguishing himself. The tenors re-engaged are Signor Gardoni, Signor Stagno, Signor Bettini, and Dr. Ganz.

We mentioned some months ago that Mdme. Grisi would reappear this season at Her Majesty's Theatre, and we now learn that the report, disbelieved when it was first started, was perfectly well founded. On this subject we may as well quote the words of the prospectus. "Mr. Mapleson," we read, "has the gratification to announce that he has prevailed upon Mdme. Grisi to revisit the scene of her early triumphs, and again to appear at the theatre her previous connection with which formed one of the most brilliant epochs in its history. Mdme. Grisi," we are further informed, "will once more undertake some of those parts which she created, and in her impersonations of which will be revived the traditions obtained direct from Rossini, Donizetti, and Bellini. These representations, which can only extend over a few nights, will derive additional interest from the fact that Mdme. Titiens has consented to take part in them, as a mark of respect to one who for so many years reigned, absolutely without rival, on the lyric stage." It is said that Mdme. Grisi will make her first reappearance in the character of Norma, and that the part of Adalgisa will be undertaken by Mdme. Titiens; while a formal promise is made that in "Don Giovanni" Mdme. Grisi and Mdme. Titiens will appear together, the former as Donna Anna and the latter as Donna Elvira.

The only new soprano engaged is Mdme. Louise Lichtmayr. Mdmes. Ilma de Murska, Harriers-Wippern, Sinico, and Enequist are all re-engaged.

Mr. Mapleson is, as usual, fortunate in his mezzo-sopranis and contralto. He has taken care not to lose either Mdme. Trebelli or Mdme. Bettelheim, and he has, moreover, secured the services of Mdme. Demerit-Lablaque, formerly of the Royal Italian Opera, Covent-Garden, then for some time of the Italian Opera of St. Petersburg.

First among the names of the basses and baritones appears that of Mr. Santley. Signor Foli (who distinguished himself last year in "The Magic Flute"), Signor Amadio, Signor Verger, Signor Marcello Junca, Signor Bosi, and Signor Rokitansky are also engaged. Signor Verger (of the Italian Opera of Paris) appears in London for the first time. Signor Scalese figures in the programme as the first and only buffo.

No new operas can be expected, but several interesting revivals are promised, the most important of which will be Gluck's "Iphigenia in Tauris," with Mdme. Titiens, Mr. Santley, and Dr. Gunz in the principal parts; Mozart's "Seraglio" (principal characters by Mdme. Titiens, Mdme. Sinico, Signor Bettini, Signor Rokitansky, and Dr. Gunz); Spontini's "Vestale" (Mdme. Titiens, Mdme. Harriers-Wippern, Signor Junca, and Signor Mongini); and Rossini's "Donna del Lago" (Mdme. Ilma de Murska, Mdme. Bettini-Trebelli, Signor Mongini, Signor Gardoni, and Signor Junca).

Besides undertaking the part of Elena in "La Donna del Lago," Mdme. Ilma de Murska will appear as Dinorah, and also as Mirella. It is announced that M. Gounod has provided this new representative of his heroine with several new pieces.

The orchestra and chorus will continue to be under the direction of Signor Ardit; Mr. Telbin will be the scenic artist; Mr. West, stage-manager; and Mr. Jarrett, acting manager. A more attractive programme than the one just issued by the director of Her Majesty's Theatre has rarely, if ever, appeared.

As the severe indisposition which for some time past has caused Mr. Henry Corri to withdraw from the lyric stage, leaving no room to hope that he will be able to resume his professional duties for many months to come, several of his friends who warmly appreciate his artistic ability and private worth organised a performance for his benefit, which took place at Covent Garden Theatre on Wednesday afternoon. The entertainment was partly musical and partly dramatic. In the concert Miss Louisa Pyne, Mdme. Lemmens-Sherrington, Mdme. Parepa, Mdme. Weiss, Miss Susan Pyne, Miss Whytock, Miss Emma Adam, Mdme. Arabella Goddard, Mr. Sims Reeves (who, however, was absent), Mr. W. H. Cummings, Mr. Alberto Laurence, Mr. J. G. Patey, and Herr Strauss were announced to appear; and the programme also included a scene from the Adelphi drama, "The Wilwo Cope," supported by Mr. J. L. Toole, Mr. Paul Bedford, and Mrs. Alfred Mellon; and the celebrated tavern scene from "The Ticket-of-Leave Man," with Miss Lydia Foote, Miss Hughes, Miss Raynham, Mrs. Stephens, Mr. Henry Neville, Mr. G. Vincent, Mr. Atkins, Mr. Soutar, and Mr. Horace Wigan. Mr. Alfred Mellon was the conductor, and the band and chorus were those of the Royal English Opera. The readiness of eminent artists to give their services, when by doing so they can give substantial aid to a suffering comrade, has never been more strikingly displayed than on this interesting but melancholy occasion.

FENIANISM IN THE ARMY.—Sir Hugh Rose, Commander of the Forces in Ireland, has issued the following general order in reference to Fenianism in the Army:—"The agents of a treasonable (the Fenian) conspiracy have done their best to seduce from their duty the soldiers of this Army. The means which they use are worthy of their designs. By bribes in drink and money they seek to gain adherents to a cause which aims to substitute a reign of terror and apportion for the Queen's Government. Those who hold lands, which these conspirators covet, and those who differ from them, are doomed to massacre and assassination. They defy religion, because it condemns them. They plan, by the most treacherous and cowardly means, the destruction of the good soldiers who are loyal to their Queen and faithful to their oath. These infamous designs have proved an utter failure. Not a taint of the conspiracy rests on the Army, except a few deluded men and the paid agents who were placed in its ranks for the seduction of the soldier. These wicked agents will meet with their deserts. This warning against an abominable conspiracy is not addressed by the Commander of the Forces in Ireland to the body of the Army, who are as true to their duty as they ever were, but to the young and thoughtless soldiers who may be, and in some instances have been, ensnared by falsehoods and treacherous temptations."

A METEOROLOGICAL FACT.—Mr. G. J. Symons, the well-known meteorological observer at Camden Town, calls attention to a remarkable coincidence. On Thursday, the 8th, there fell in London what passed for a hailstorm, but what Mr. Symons more exactly describes as a fall of water in a semi-solid state far denser than snow, and yet not half nor ice; and the curious fact is that a precisely similar fall occurred on March 8, in the years 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1863, 1865, and 1866. "I pointed out this periodicity," says Mr. Symons, "in a meteorological report for March, 1859, and I then referred to the remarkable fall on March 8, 1857, when these soft ball-balls were very large (3 in. round), and covered the ground 2 in. or 3 in. thick. On that occasion the electricity of the atmosphere was so strong during their fall as seriously to derange the electrical apparatus at Greenwich. In 1859 there was also much electricity, and on Thursday last thunder and lightning. I have said that they are far denser than ordinary snow. Snow is usually one twelfth the density of water—i.e., 12 in. of snow gives 1 in. of water; but about 24 in. of these balls gave 1 in. of water; therefore their density was about half that of ball and five times that of ordinary snow. Their shape is usually pyramidal, the base being uneven, somewhat like the flower of a cauliflower. The size varies from 1 in. in diameter down to one tenth: about two tenths is most usual. In some years there is a second fall on the 9th. I am, of course, quite ignorant of any cause for this periodicity, which, so far as is at present known, is unique in meteorology. (Meteors, not being of atmospheric origin, are not parallel.) It may prove illusory at last; but when a phenomenon occurs on the same day seven years out of ten, I think it wants watching."

THE NAVY.

THE scheme proposed for increasing the flow of promotion among certain classes of officers of the Royal Navy was published on Monday. The proposals are the following:—

1. Compulsory retirement to be extended to all the executive lists.
2. Admirals to be retired on attaining seventy years of age, or when physically unfit for service.
3. Vice-Admirals to be retired at sixty-eight, or when physically unfit for service.
4. Rear-Admirals to be retired at sixty-five, or when physically unfit for service.
5. Flag-officers at present on the active list who may be retired under these regulations will retain all the privileges of rising in rank and pay to which they are now entitled; but no flag-officer who has not hoisted his flag will be considered eligible for the appointments of Vice and Rear Admirals of the United Kingdom, or for promotion to the rank of Admiral of the Fleet.
6. The active flag list to be reduced to 85:—

Admirals of the Fleet and Admirals ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
(But not to be more than three Admirals of the Fleet at one time.)							
Vice-Admirals ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Rear-Admirals ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
							—

Total 85

This reduction is to be made gradually by only filling up two out of every three vacancies caused by the removal of flag-officers who accept Greenwich pensions, and by retirements from age, whether optional or compulsory. Vacancies from all other causes are to be filled up as they occur.

Vacancies on the list of officers on reserved half-pay in receipt of service pensions and the list of flag-officers of Greenwich Hospital will not be filled up.

7. Flag-officers at present on the active list who have hoisted their flags or been employed at the Admiralty are to be allowed to retain their places on the active list if they should prefer it; but they may be placed on the retired list at their own request, with the consent of the Admiralty. Officers coming on to the flag list after this date will be subject to compulsory retirement at the ages specified above, whether they have served or not.

8. Captains to be retired at sixty, or when physically unfit for service, on the terms of the Order in Council of July 9, 1864. Those at present on the active list who, before attaining the age of sixty, shall have served the necessary time to qualify them for promotion to the active flag list, are to be allowed to retain their places on the active list, if they should prefer it; but no captain will be eligible for promotion to the active flag list after sixty years of age, or if physically unfit for service.

9. Officers promoted to the rank of Captain after this date will be subject to compulsory retirement on attaining sixty years of age, whether they have served or not.

10. Captains of sixty years of age who have served the necessary time to qualify them for promotion to the active flag list, and who remain on the captains' list until promoted to Rear-Admiral, will be placed on the retired list, but will be allowed to rise by seniority to the rank and pay of Vice-Admiral and Admiral respectively. Captains who have served their time, but who retire voluntarily before reaching the top of the list, will not be entitled to rise to higher pay, as flag-officers, than 2s. a day, in accordance with the Order in Council of July 9, 1864.

11. Captains who have not served their time for active flag rank, and who have been unemployed for ten years, to be retired on the terms of the Order in Council of July 9, 1864.

12. Captains to be allowed to retire on attaining fifty years of age, with the consent of the Admiralty, on the terms of the Order in Council of the 9th of July, 1864.

13. The Captains' list to be reduced gradually to 250, by filling up only two out of every three vacancies caused by age retirements from that list, whether optional or compulsory. Vacancies from all other causes are to be filled up as they occur.

14. Commanders to be retired at fifty-five, or when physically unfit for service, and to be allowed to retire at fifty, with the consent of the Admiralty, on the terms of the Order in Council of the 9th of July, 1864.

15. Lieutenants to be retired at fifty-five, or when physically unfit for service, and to be allowed to retire at forty-five, with the consent of the Admiralty, on the terms of the Order in Council of the 9th of July, 1864.

16. Time served by naval officers in civil employments connected with the Navy, which does not entitle them to civil superannuation, is to be allowed to reckon towards increase of half or retired pay in the proportion of one year for every two served in such capacity.

OBITUARY.

SIR W. GORE OUSELEY, G.C.B.—This well-known and much-esteemed gentleman died, at his residence, Albemarle-street, on the 6th inst., aged fifty-seven, after a tedious illness, the seeds of which he brought home with him from the sphere of the last of his varied missions, that to Central America, where he negotiated most complex arrangements with consummate success. Sir William entered the diplomatic profession at a very early age, and served in many countries, including a prolonged residence at the Court of Rio Janeiro (1832), and also at Buenos Ayres (1844), and Monte Video (1846-7), whether he was specially accredited during a most eventful epoch in the annals of the eastern States of South America, in whose prosperity he ever continued to take a lively interest. How much and how early he contributed to that prosperity will be recognised by those old enough to remember his persistent antagonism to the military despotism and commercial restrictiveness of Rossas; and that the opening up of the affluents of the La Plata was mainly due to the preliminary expedition upon which he dispatched Captain Hotham, years before that gallant officer, then become Admiral, was empowered by Lord Malmsbury to negotiate the treaty for such object. In common with most members of his gifted family, who for centuries gave conspicuous servants to the State, he was a ripe classic as well as a sound modern scholar, and was made D.C.L. Her Majesty, whose artistic taste is well known, personally selected for publication from his portfolio those drawings which, with his attractive descriptions—for he was an admirable writer, and inherited literary aptitude in many branches of *belles lettres*—may be said to have familiarised England with the scenic peculiarities of Rio Plata. In all relations of private life his amiability and kindheartedness endeared him to everyone who knew him. A most affectionate father, and deservedly proud of his two promising sons, he had to mourn the premature death of one in Paraguay, under singularly distressing circumstances, and of the other, a naval officer, during the British operations against Russia in the Baltic. Lady Ouseley, who survives her husband, and whom he married while at the British Legation in Washington, comes also of a race of distinguished public servants in the United States, her father being Governor Van Ness, of the State of Vermont, and afterwards Envoy Extraordinary at the Court of Madrid. Her only child now living is married to the Hon. J. T. Fitzmaurice, of the Royal Navy, son of the Earl of Orkney. Sir William's death a vacancy occurs in the chairmanship of the Falkland Islands Company, as also at the boards of other companies of which he was an active director. His pension from the British Government, about £1000 per annum, dies with him.

DR. CONOLLY.—Dr. Conolly, perhaps the most eminent consulting physician in lunacy cases, died last week. He was chief consulting physician to the Hanwell Lunatic Asylum and the Asylum for Idiots. He was the author of various works in connection with the subject of his studies, but will be best recollect by the general public by his curious article published not long since, "On the Madness of Hamlet," a paper evincing great thought and which evoked considerable discussion.

THE EARLDOM OF HARRINGTON.—A poor Irish gentleman has, much to his surprise, become Earl of Harrington, being heir male of the late young Earl, who died in his minority. When the great Earl of Chesterfield died the inheritance passed to a cousin of very remote degree. The same thing has now happened in the line of the younger brother of the first Earl of Chesterfield, of whom Lord Harrington is the representative. The new Earl of Harrington's son, now Viscount Petersham, is an engineer by profession and education, and highly esteemed by those who have had occasion to seek professional service from him.

GOVERNMENT OPERATIVES AND PROVISIONS.—In consequence of the high price of meat a co-operative movement was commenced a few weeks since by the workmen employed at the Royal Arsenal and Dockyard, Woolwich, which has had the desired result. Two societies have been formed, which comprise upwards of 2000 members. Three stores have been opened, and the meat is supplied by one of the most extensive contractors in London at a reduction of about twenty per cent as compared with the high prices which previously prevailed.

A PAUPER'S LOVE-LETTER.—On Tuesday the gravity of the deliberations of the Sculcoates Board of Guardians, Hull, was somewhat relieved by the chairman reading the following letter, written by a pauper to a young woman, also an inmate of the house:—"Dear Jane.—If you tax me for my boldness, I might also tax you for your comeliness, for at the first glance I thought I knew you, and the attention you paid me confirmed the thought. I belong to Cottenham, and have come in purposely to form an acquaintance with you, which I hope will not be rejected, for you will find me both upright and sincere. And regarding our errors, none are without their faults. I have a good home to go to, and if you choose you can share it with me. It grieves me to see such a blooming young woman shut out from society and wasting the prime of her life in a place like this. Weigh the matter well, and you will find a married life preferable to yours. I will write more after receiving an answer to this, with every particular. (Send by bearer of this.) Yours in sincerity, LUKE WHITEMAN." Whiteman had been admitted as a pauper, and the chairman remarked that, unfortunately for his suit, his "blooming young woman" was married. When brought before the board, Whiteman acknowledged the billet doux. He was told to leave, because he had admitted that he had a good home. The poor fellow seemed quite disconsolate on hearing the words which banished him from the presence of his inamorata.

BURNING OF THE BRITISH SHIP ABEONA BY THE CHINESE.

The Board of Trade have received the subjoined from the British Consul at Tamsny, Island of Formosa, taken by him on oath from Captain Murray, late master of the ship Abeona, of Liverpool, from Hong-Kong to Cheefoo, which was attacked, plundered, and burnt off that island:—

The Abeona was making for Cheefoo, with a cargo of 1222 bags of sugar, 300 bales of calico, and boxes of provisions. On Oct. 12 the ship, when off the island of Formosa, was carried ashore. Soon afterwards the natives began to come down to the ship, and we were compelled to arm ourselves to keep them from boarding us. When the water rose the sea rose also, preventing us from getting a boat out. The ship bumped heavily, but did not float. Next day at low water the ship was surrounded by natives trying to board us. We were compelled to fire into them, killing two and wounding several. When the tide commenced to make, sent the mate on shore to get assistance from the authorities and to deliver a letter to the English Consul at Tamsny requesting assistance, as I could not defend myself. Morning of the 15th, mate returned with a mandarin and a few soldiers to assist us. The crowd of natives increasing, I was compelled to keep the crew under arms night and day, especially at low water, as they were stripping the copper and digging holes in the ship's bottom; 16th, still employed trying to keep the natives off—the ship's ammunition very low, mandarin promising to supply us with more, but did not fulfil his promise; 17th, morning moderate, surrounded by boats which the mandarin said were cargo-boats, but they were well armed. The mandarin offered me, if I would make an agreement to pay him half the value of the cargo, he would take it on shore; if not, he would take his soldiers away. I was compelled to accept this agreement, but it was never fulfilled. The mandarin got about 100 bags of sugar on deck. The mandarin allowed a large number of men to come on deck on the plea of being friends. About three p.m. the natives fired into us from the sand and cleared all the soldiers from the raias. The mandarin then proposed leaving and taking all his soldiers with him. After much persuasion I got him to stay till dark, and he promised to escort us safely on shore. I was compelled to accept this proposition, as our ammunition was expended and many boats were cruising about. As soon as it commenced to get dark the mandarin's men and the men on deck began to plunder the ship. They compelled us to leave the ship that night, as there was assistance expected next morning. We left the vessel about seven p.m. under the escort of one of the mandarin's men, in a sampan, filling the sampan with cargo after they got us into her. On the way ashore they plundered us of all we had except what we stood in. Next morning at daylight the ship was in flames. We were taken under the protection of the mandarins and detained ten days, they trying to recover the cargo, and during that time they beheaded three men and hung one of the principal ringleaders. They treated us very kindly, and finally provided us with 200 dols. to pay our expenses towards Hong-Kong. It is my opinion that we owe our safety to the frequent correspondence with her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul and Mr. John Dodd, of Tamsny. The latter gentleman had taken means to provide us a kind reception in all the places on our way up here. I beg to state that it was reported the gun-boat Flamer was expected down, which the mandarins appeared to be very much afraid of. We arrived here (Hong-Kong) on the evening of Oct. 31, and were kindly provided for by the British Consul. The burning of the ship was said to have been done by the mandarins, with a view to stop the plundering. I recovered through the mandarins my own chronometer and sextant, all but two tubes, and one change of clothing.

The ship and cargo were both insured.

A HARSH JUDGMENT.—At the last Berks Petty Sessions, held at the Townhall, Windsor, before Messrs. P. H. Crutchley and T. J. Hersey, George Gally, apparently half starved, was charged with sealing a turnip, the property of George Allen, at Old Windsor. The poor fellow pulled a turnip on the previous Sunday morning, and actually ate half of it before he was detected in such a dreadful crime. The defendant pleaded guilty, and, in default of paying a fine of 5s. and 6s. 1d. costs, he was sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment, with hard labour, in Reading Gaol.

A NEW PARK FOR LIVERPOOL.—We have sincere pleasure in announcing that the Corporation have concluded terms with the Earl of Sefton for the purchase of a large tract of undulating land to the south of Prince's Park, with the intention of converting it into a park, which shall be, in extent and in appearance, worthy of the town. The site is bounded on the east by Greenbank-road, on the south and west by Mossley-hill and Alburgh-road, near the Three Sixes, and on the north by Ullet-lane. We hear that the purchase-money will amount to about £250,000, being at the rate of 2s. 8d. per yard. This will represent an area of nearly 400 acres. Of this area 175 acres will be devoted to the laying out of villa residences; 200 acres will be devoted to the park. In addition to this the Botanical Gardens will be transferred thither, and the gardens at present used will be thrown into Wavertree Park. There will also, we believe, be "Rottenrow." Twopenny in the pound on the rateable value of the town will provide for interest and a sinking fund, which is to be paid up in fifty years.—*Liverpool Albion*.

DECLINE OF THE RINDERPEST.—There really seems to be reason to believe that a cold and tangible decline has occurred in the rinderpest. During the sixteen weeks ending March 3 the whole number of attacks reported to the Veterinary Department of the Privy Council has been as follows:—

Week ending	Current Cases.	Back Cases.	Total.
Nov. 15, 1865	2,669	676	3,345
"	3,610	2,941	6,551
Dec. 2	3,828	1,903	5,731
"	5,533	2,129	7,485
"	6,054	2,131	8,187
"	6,756	1,951	8,207
"	7,693	2,763	9,956
Jan. 6, 1866	7,106	1,402	8,508
"	9,243	2,936	12,299
"	10,041	2,81	12,842
"	11,745	2,290	14,443
"	11,990	4,365	15,355
"	13,001	5,551	18,356
"	16,167	1,143	11,310
March 3	7,310	2,060	9,370

The public has, perhaps, been led to form erroneous conclusions on the subject, as the abstracts published weekly have taken no account of the "back cases"—that is, the cases not reported in sufficient time to be included in the weekly returns and carried forward, in consequence, to the next week. At the same time, the totals referring to these back cases are too considerable to be overlooked. It will be seen that the aggregate number of attacks in the week ending March 3 was less than in any previous days since Jan. 6; while, comparing the number of attacks in the week ending March 3 with the total for the week ending Feb. 17, we see a decline

LAW AND CRIME.

SIR JOHN KYNASTON, Bart., was last week knocked down by a horse drawing a cart, near Charing-cross, and was so injured that he died a few days after. There was no blame to be attached to the driver of the vehicle which caused the accident; but Sir John, aged and somewhat infirm, became bewildered in attempting to cross the road from Trafalgar-square, and was quite unable to escape the collision. Every London pedestrian must have frequently experienced a like danger. The difficulty of crossing our great thoroughfares has recently formed the subject of comment in several of the journals. The Coroner, at the inquest upon Sir John, suggested that, in crowded thoroughfares, bridges or roadways should be erected. There is, however, a somewhat easier and more expeditious way of meeting the difficulty. In ordinary cases, and to the practised foot-passenger, it is easy enough even now to cross a crowded horse-road. All that is necessary is to touch the back of one vehicle and so to pass from that to the one nearest it on the opposite side. But in many cases the drivers appear to take a delight in causing the greatest possible inconvenience, and they prevent this manoeuvre by driving as closely as can be to the carriage immediately in front. We have, in the City, policemen expressly set upon the duty of regulating the traffic. If these officials were only to take care that no driver should be allowed to follow the vehicle in front of him at a less distance than 2 ft., many accidents might be spared, and certainly the crossings would be rendered much easier to pedestrians. To this might also be added a regulation that at stated intervals, say of five or ten minutes, no horse should be allowed to pass over a crossing until a few seconds had been allowed for the transit of pedestrians. This, after all, is only the system by which railway trains are enabled to cross highroads. No one has a right to expect to ride rapidly and without hindrance along our crowded metropolitan thoroughfares. Nor does it at all affect the question that the majority of accidents are caused by slow vehicles, for, as in the case before us, it usually happens that, in the mere hurried effort to escape from some swift hansom or brougham, the unfortunate suffer blunders against some slow, heavy vehicle, to the driver of which, of course, no blame is to be attached.

Mr. Woolrych, before whom the summons against the Messrs. Hope, of Bermondsey, was heard, has expressed his opinion that "ketchup," or "catsup," as the vile decoction of liver sold by the defendants is more suggestively termed, is not within the provisions of the statute against adulteration, not being food. Mr. Woolrych argues that, as no one could live upon ketchup alone, therefore it is not food; but, as he has doubts as to whether it is or not, he has consented to grant a case for the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench. Mr. Woolrych's idea is that the fluid in question, being only a condiment, is not a viand. His implied definition of food—that it is something capable, exclusively of other things, of supporting life, is clearly indefensible. No man could live long upon roast partridges; and yet it would be vain to deny that partridges are food. So, no human being could live upon salt; and yet, deprived of salt, he would shortly die, after fearful agonies. For salt is a necessity of the human body, and yet it is commonly used as a condiment. It is taken into the body for the purpose of assimilation, and, although not pleasant, *per se*, it renders savory that which without it would be insipid. It supplies a craving, it replaces a loss. Therefore, salt is food. Then, why is not the extract of the mushroom, an esculent vegetable, of which extract salt is an essential part—why is this to be distinguished from food? And if tricky manufacturers sell a nasty compound of stale liver-juice as the liquor of the mushroom, having spoiled good salt by the process, how can it be pretended that they have not adulterated—i.e., falsified—"food"? We await with some interest the arguments upon this matter; for it is curious to remark how much all human affairs turn upon the precise meaning of words, and how, without the lexicographer, the lawyer would be "at sea" half his time.

Mr. Vaughan, magistrate, received at Bow-street Police Court a letter inclosing 5s. worth of stamps from "Vindex," "towards the fund for prosecuting the agents in the money-lending frauds." Of course, Mr. Vaughan had no authority or inclination to become the depository of funds for any prosecution. He therefore declared his readiness to return the amount, and, in default of a claimant, to apply it to the poor-box fund.

Dr. Webber, of Tunbridge Wells, sued eight persons for inciting and forming part of a mob, which burned him in effigy and demolished his windows. The differences between Dr. Webber and some of his neighbours have already formed the subject of judicial proceedings. It seems that Dr. Webber published some strictures upon the sewers at Tunbridge Wells, and these, whether just or otherwise, excited the animosity of the roughs of the town. In this case the Lord Chief Justice recommended a pacific settlement; and, after a long consultation, the matter was compromised, some of the defendants agreeing to a verdict of £50 against them, the plaintiff consenting to a nonsuit in others, and a juror being withdrawn as to the residue. In the last case each party pays his own costs.

A case of alleged manslaughter was tried at Bedford, before Marion Martin. A woman had been run over by a cart, and so killed. A man was in her company, and he made some statement. He afterwards died from other and natural causes. The driver of the cart was indicted. The statement of the woman's companion is reported not to have been admissible as evidence. Nevertheless, the jury were allowed to see a memorandum of it before giving their verdict. This is rather curious. The jury delivered a verdict in accordance with the statement—of course, upon grounds perfectly independent of it, and without having been in the slightest degree influenced by the disclosures therein contained.

WESTERN CIRCUIT, EXETER.

THE ATTEMPTED MASSACRE IN DEVON.

(Before Mr. Justice Byles.)

John Medland was indicted for having, on the 17th of October, shot at Elizabeth Blatchford with intent to kill and murder her.

Mr. Cole prosecuted; and Mr. Carter defended the prisoner.

Prosecutrix is the daughter of a farmer. The prisoner worked for Mr. Blatchford, was treated kindly by the family, and formed an attachment for Elizabeth, a girl of twenty-two years of age. She did not

encourage his attentions. The prisoner went to Scotland, and returned on the 16th of October; but, by accident, the parties met at Plymouth, on the 14th of October. The prisoner came to Mr. Blatchford's on the 16th of October, and slept there that night. On the following day, the 17th, the prisoner several times told Miss Blatchford he wanted to speak to her. She told him to speak on. In the afternoon, while she was stooping down, he drew out a revolver pistol, put it close to her head, and shot at her. The bullet struck the side of her head and glanced off. She fell to the ground insensible. He then fired another shot at her while she was on the ground. The bullet went through her dress, but not the lining. There was a bruise on her side. Her mother rushed to him to prevent his doing more, and he fired at her, but the ball did not strike her. He then fired at one of the sisters, and ran out of the house. He was afterwards found running about with his throat cut. Two bullets were found in the kitchen. The prisoner, when in custody, said he knew what would take place twelve months before. He intended to kill her, and when she was dead he should die happy. The prosecutrix, who is a very pretty girl, while giving her evidence, was in the most pitiable state of distress, and the prisoner was dreadfully excited.

In cross-examination Miss Blatchford said that before the prisoner went to Scotland he told her if she did not write to him he would come back, and she did write to him, because she did not want him to come back. She had written two letters to him. She had never received a letter from him. She had addressed the envelopes of letters to the prisoner for her brother, who was very intimate with the prisoner—like a brother. She had never encouraged the prisoner in his addresses to her. Never knew the prisoner had fits. Had been acquainted with the prisoner for many years. They were all on the best of terms. Her brother used to keep the prisoner's money for him.

The surgeon stated that he saw the prisoner shortly after the occurrence. He was in a state of great excitement, and after witness had seen up the wound in his throat he tore out the stitches. Great excitement would produce congestion of the brain. He then saw the girl. There was a wound over the ear, produced by a blunt instrument, just possibly by a bullet. There was a bruise on her side.

The prisoner had a good character as a peaceable, quiet young man.

When the prisoner was in custody he said that he had been keeping company with the girl for six years, and that Mr. and Mrs. Blatchford knew of it and were very much annoyed.

Mr. Carter submitted that there was no proof of the pistol having been loaded with powder and ball.

The Judge said there was a strong fact that the pistol was fired so close to the head without much harm, and the shot fired at the mother was with the same result. It was a case for the jury whether the intent of the prisoner was to kill and murder her.

Mr. Carter then addressed the jury on behalf of the prisoner, and urged, first, that there was no evidence of the pistol having been loaded. The prisoner had been living in the house of the Blatchfords, and he was a quiet, peaceful, young man. He had for years deeply loved this girl, and, although she denied it, there could be no doubt that they had been keeping company together. There had evidently been a correspondence between them; but there was nothing to show that a ball had been fired, for, if it had, death must have ensued. The pistol could only have been fired to alarm her.

The learned Judge then summed up. The question was whether the prisoner had intended to murder the girl, or to do her grievous bodily harm. If they were not satisfied of that, was he guilty of unlawfully wounding?

The jury found the prisoner "Guilty," with intent to murder, but recommended him to mercy, as they thought it was not out of hatred or malice, but from excitement. Sentence deferred.

SHOOTING A SERGEANT.—Michael Foy, a private, was charged with attempting to murder Sergeant Sherlock, at the Royal Barracks, Devonport.

It appeared that, about six o'clock on the morning of Friday, Sept. 1, the occupants of No. 1 barrack-room, Raglan Barracks, Devonport, were getting ready for parade, Sergeant Sherlock and Private Foy being among the number. The latter was seen by Private Tetherick to take his rifle from the rack and place it on the bed-cot; but this was only looked upon as a part of his preparation for duty, until almost immediately afterwards he took it up, presented it at the sergeant, who was about ten yards off, and fired. The bullet passed through the poor fellow's right side, going through a pane of glass, and striking the wall on the opposite side of the barracks. Sherlock, with great decision, cried out, "Put Foy in the guard-room." The culprit, with great coolness, replaced his rifle in the rack and walked out of the room, but was immediately apprehended. Sherlock was at once attended by the barracks surgeon, and taken on a stretcher to the military hospital, Stoke Damerel, where, after much suffering, he recovered. The motive for the crime appared to be revenge, the prisoner having been subjected to extra drill for oversleeping himself, on the report of Sergeant Sherlock. Foy, who had served in the St. Helena Corps, had two good-conduct stripes, and was looked upon as a steady and efficient man.

Mr. Justice Byles having summed up,

The jury, after five minutes' deliberation, found a verdict of "Guilty."

Prisoner, when asked why sentence should not be passed upon him, answered—I fired at the sergeant, but I did not intend to wound him in the body. I intended to hit him in the arm and not to injure him.

His Lordship passed sentence. "Michael Foy, I should say that except for an accident—only I believe nothing in this world ever happens by accident—you would have stood there to answer with your life for what you have done. The sentence upon you is penal servitude for fifteen years."

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ATHLETIC SPORTS.—The third athletic meeting between the representatives of the Universities took place, on Saturday last, on the Christ Church ground, Oxford. There was a very large attendance. The first event was throwing the 16 lb. hammer, which had been thought certain for Oxford. The result was—G. R. Thornton (Cambridge), 87 ft. 7 in.; James, of Cambridge, being second; and Morgan, of Oxford, third, with 86 ft. 6 in. In practice Morgan had thrown over 100 ft. The one-mile flat race was won by J. Laing, of Christ Church, Oxford; W. Bowman, of Oxford, being second. The Cambridge men were the favourites. Laing, however, took the lead, and won easily in 4m. 45s. James and Gibbs represented Cambridge. The high jump was won by J. Roupell, of Trinity, Cambridge, who cleared 5 ft. 6 in.; Little, of Cambridge, was second. Parsons and Stewart were the Oxford competitors. The one-hundred-yards flat race was won by Vidal, of Oxford, and Colmore, of Oxford, who raced a dead heat. Connolly and Wood were for Cambridge. In putting the 16 lb. stone, Elliott, of Trinity College, Cambridge, was first, reaching 32 ft. 10 in.; F. Waltham, of Cambridge, was second. Morgan and Coates represented Oxford. The quarter-mile flat race was won by the Hon. F. G. Pelham, of Trinity, Cambridge; Nolan, of Oxford, running second. In the long jump T. G. Little, of St. Peter's, Cambridge, cleared 20 ft. 1 in., while Maitland, of Christ Church, Oxford, came second with 19 ft. 11 in. The 120-yards hurdle-race, over ten hurdles, was credited to Oxford; Morgan, of Magdalen, coming in first, and R. W. Visal, of St. John's, second. Messrs. Tiffany and Milvain represented Cambridge. The two-mile race was a very close affair, and caused great excitement. There were six competitors, and after a most spirited race, the contest resulted in a dead heat between J. W. Laing, of Christ Church, Oxford, and W. Long, of Trinity, Cambridge. The race was run in 10 min. 18 sec. The odd event has again fallen to Cambridge, who gained five events and a dead heat. The judges were—J. G. Chambers, Trinity, Cambridge, and R. H. Mitchell, Balliol, Oxford. Referee—H. E. Webster, Trinity, Cambridge.

WESTERN CIRCUIT, EXETER.

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£130,000 for the new Mansion House-street, and £8000 for the southern embankment. The Board is entitled, under the Metropolitan District Railway Act of 1864, to a minimum sum of £200,000 in respect of the right given to the railway company to carry their line through and under the land acquired and made for the Thames Embankment and the new street, with further sums for stations which may be made on the embankment. The sums first named do not, of course, indicate the total estimated costs of the works. Apart from claims for houses, lands, leases, &c., we notice that the contracts for the north embankment are:—No. 1, Mr. George Furness, £520,000; No. 2, Messrs. Ritson and Co., £229,000. For the south embankment, commencing opposite the Houses of Parliament, the contract has been let to Mr. Webster for £309,000. This amount will include the construction of the embankment and numerous improved approaches to it. The funds for defraying the cost of the embankments will be provided out of the proceeds of the coal and wine duties. Claims for properties required for the new street from Blackfriars Bridge to the Mansion House, amounting in the aggregate to £327,590, have been settled, according to the report of the Metropolitan Board of Works, for £288,991.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

THE Government broker having ceased to operate on account of the Sinking Fund, owing to the payment of £80,000 Exchequer Bills, National Securities have been somewhat heavy this week, and the quotations have not been supported. Consols, for Money, have been 87 1/2; Ditto, for Account, 87 1/2; Reduced and New Three per Cent., 86 1/2; Exchequer Bills, 6s. to 3s. dia. Bank Stock, 25 to 25 1/2.

On Thursday the directors of the Bank of England reduced their rate of discount to 6 per cent.

Indian Stocks, &c., have changed hands slowly.—India Stock, 20s to 21s; Ditto, Five per Cent., 22 1/2; Buped Paper, 10s to 14s, and 10s to 10s; India Bonds, 10s. to 15s.

There has been a fair demand for accommodation in most quarters. In the open market the lowest rates are as follows:—

Thirty Days' Bills 5 per cent.

Sixty Days' 5 1/2 " "

Three Months' 6 " "

Four Months' 6 1/2 " "

Six Months' 6 1/2 " "

Althou. h only moderate supplies of bullion have come to hand, several parcels of gold have been sent into the Bank of England.

The steamer for the East has taken out about £75,000 in bullion. The gold shipments from Australia to England since the last packet have been £311,000.

The applications for the New Zealand Loan of £500,000 amounted to £35,000.

On the whole, the market for Foreign Securities has ruled firm, and slight improvement has taken place in the quotations. The Spanish Five per Cent. Loan has declined to 14 1/2 per cent.; Brazilian Five per Cent., 1865, having risen 7 1/2; Chilean Five per Cent., 1864, 22 1/2; Egyptian Seven per Cent., 1864, 22; Danish Seven per Cent., 1863; Egyptian Seven per Cent., 1864, 22; American Three per Cent., 22 1/2; Ditto, 1862 to 25; French Three per Cent., 1862; Russian Five per Cent., 1862, 20 1/2; Ditto, 1862, 20; Turkish Six per Cent., 1862, 67 1/2; Ditto, Five per Cent., 1865, 38 1/2.

The market for Joint-stock Bank Shares has been heavy, and prices have had a drooping tendency. Allianc. have sold at 27; Anglo-Austrian, 6 1/2; Anglo-Egyptian, 12; Bank of Egypt, 31; Chartered of India, Australia and China, 24; Chartered Mercantile of India, London, and China, 46; English Joint-stock, 6 1/2; Imperial Ottoman, 13; Ditto, New, 11 1/2; London Chartered of Australia, 22 1/2; London and County, 75; London and Westminster, 56; Metropolitan and Provincial, 16; Oriental, 53; Scinde, Punjab, and Central, 51; Standard of British South Africa, 13; and Union of London, 53.

Colonial Government Securities have been dealt in to a very moderate extent. Canada Six per Cent. have realised 66 1/2; Ditto Five per Cent., 79 1/2; New South Wales Five per Cent., 1862 to 1892, 87 1/2; Queensland Six per Cent., 90 1/2; and Victoria Six per Cent., 107 1/2.

Financial Companies' Shares have continued heavy, at a further reduction in value. Other Miscellaneous Securities have ruled inactive. Atlantic Telegraph, 24; Australian Mortgage Land and Finance, 54; Canada Company, 87; Ceylon Company, 92; Ditto, A Share, 24; Colonial Company, 44; Consolidated Discount, 5; Credit Fonciere and Mobiliere of England, 54; Ditto, New, 71; Ebbw Vale, 17 1/2; Egyptian Commercial and Trading, 4; General Credit, 41; Great Western, 14; Greek Islands, 14; Imperial Bond, 17 1/2; International Land Credit, 54; Joint-stock, 12 1/2; London and Provincial, 10; London General Omnibus, 24; London and Dock, 24; National Discount, 14; Ocean Marine Insurance, 24; Overend, Gurney, and Co., 17 1/2; Telegraph Construction and Maintenance, 11 1/2; Grand Junction Canal, 69; Imperial Gas, 73; Imperial Continental, 66; London 71; Surety Commissioners, 14; Westminster Chartered, 66; East London Waterworks, 12 1/2; Grand Junction, 7 1/2; West Middlesex, 11 1/2; Imperial Life Insurance, 20.

In the Railway Share Market there has been a great want of activity; nevertheless prices, on the whole, have raised firm.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Very little English wheat has been received into our market this week. The samples have, however, come to hand in fair average condition. Selected parcels have moved off steadily, at full quotations; but inferior kinds have met with a slow inquiry, at late rates. The transactions in foreign wheat have been on a limited scale, at previous currencies. Malting barley has sold freely, at 1s. per quarter more money. Grinding and distilling sorts have run firm in price. Malt has been in good supply and fair request, at full quotations. The sale for case has been inactive on former terms. We have no change to notice in the value of either brewing or distilling sorts.

ENGLISH WHEAT.—Wheat, 28 to 56s.; barley, 10s. to 42s.; malt, 5s. to 6s.; oats, 10s. to 30s.; rye, 28s. to 38s.; beans, 50s. to 50s.; peas, 35s. to 45s. per quarter per hour.

CATTLE.—The supplies of stock have been only moderate; nevertheless, the trade has ruled very inactive, and the quotations have had a drooping tendency. Beef, from 4s. 2d. to 4s. 8d.; mutton, 4s. 2d. to 6s. 10d.; veal, 2s. 8d. to 6s. 8d.; pork, 4s. to 5s. per lb. to the carcass.

TEA.—The market is somewhat inactive. In prices, however, very little change has taken place.

SEAFOOD.—The demand for raw qualities is quiet, at least last week's quotations. The stock consists of 82,457 tons, against 96,153 tons last year.

COFFEE.—No change has taken place in the value of any kind. The market, however, may be considered steady. Stock, 11,399 tons, against 9,950 tons in 1863.

RICE.—On the spot, the demand is steady, at full quotations. Stock, 28,575 tons, against 49,412 tons last year.

PROVISIONS.—Nearly all kinds of butter are a slow inquiry, and prices are rather easier. Bacon is steady, at 7s. to 7s. per cwt. for Waterford, landed, and 6s. to 7s. for Ham. Hams are quite as dear as last week. The best ham has advanced 1s. to 1s. per cwt.

TALLOW.—The value of F.Y.C., on the spot, is now 16s. 6d. per cwt. Stock, 35,963 casks, against 45,067 casks in 1863. Hog fat, 16s. 6d. per cwt.

SPICES.—Liquorice is firm, at £4 5s. to £4 10s. per ton, on the spot. The sale is falling, at £4 7s. to £5 10s. olive, £5 10s. to £6 10s.; coconut, £4 7s. to £5 10s.; and fine palm, £4 2s. to £4 10s. French turpentine, 4s. 6d. to 4s. 10s. per cwt.

SPRINKLES.—Rum is in moderate request, at full quotations. Proof Demerara, 1s. 7d. per gallon. Brandy and grain spirits are tolerably firm.

HAY AND STRAW.—Hay, £1 4s. to £1 10s.; clover, £2 5s. to £2 15s.; straw, £1 18s. to £2 10s. per load.

COALS.—Newcastle, 15s. 2d. to 16s. 2d.; Sunderland, 15s. 2d. to 19s.

OTHER QUALITIES.—15s. 9d. to 16s. 6d. per ton cwt.

HOPS.—There is about an average business doing in most kinds, on former terms—viz., from 70s. to 190s. per cwt.

WOOL.—The public sales of colonial wool are progressing steadily, at an advance in the quotations of 1d. to 1d. per lb.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

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